

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Rainy, 75°F (24°C)
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, 61°F (16°C)
Tomorrow: Rainy, 70°F (21°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 126, Number 31

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Monday, August 28, 2006



Manuel A. Esquivel Echeverria '10, Isabel P. Mattos '10, Alexandre S. Oliveira '10, Lawrence L. Chan '10, and Monica M. Hu '10 (left to right) respond to the command "Left hand on freshman" during MEGAtwister, held in the East Campus Talbot lounge last night at 8:08 p.m.

OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

REX Introduces Frosh to Dorms

Events End When the Housing Adjustment Lottery Closes Tomorrow

By Harsha Wasalathanthri

With exams, problem sets, and essays aplenty in the coming fall, where they live at MIT is an important decision that incoming freshmen have to make. Residential Exploration (REX) is giving freshmen the opportunity to explore the 11 undergraduate dormitories.

REX events kicked off Friday with almost every dormitory organizing activities to welcome incom-

ing freshmen. Activities, including everything from free food events to hair-dyeing to lessons in basic electronics assembly to medieval warfare, end on Tuesday with the closing of the Housing Adjustment Lottery at 6:30 p.m.

REX is also "a time for freshmen to meet other freshmen and upperclassmen who will help them through their first year," REX Chair Sarah C. Hopp '08 said in an e-mail.

Most REX events are clustered around two main days, yesterday and today, with freshmen given the entirety of those days to explore their dormitories, Hopp said. This is similar to the way REX was structured last year. In years prior, REX was limited to a few hours each day.

This year, "the main change is

REX, Page 12

Dean for Student Life Gives Advice, Support to Students

By Angeline Wang
NEWS EDITOR

The Tech: What is your role in the Institute?

Larry Benedict: My title is Dean for Student Life, and I oversee a va-

riety of the non-academic support services on campus. That ranges from Housing and Dining to Student Life Programs (SLP), Residence Life Programs, Student Support Services, and DAPER [Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation] which includes athletics, recreation, and intramurals. I oversee the campus chaplains, the Office of Student Conduct and Mediation, and the Student Activities Office. Then, within SLP, in addition to student activities, there is the Public Service Center. It is a large organization. We have almost 400 staff, and our primary goal is to help students in all those various areas. We provide services for all students, undergraduate and graduate.

TT: What services or support does your office offer for students, specifically freshmen?

LB: We try to let students know, freshmen especially, of the resources available to them for any kind of help they might need. As you look at the

Benedict, Page 16

Mentor Program Gives International Student Orientation a Personal Touch

By Valery K. Brobbey
STAFF REPORTER

Staff reporter Valery K. Brobbey is an international student from Ghana and was a mentor in this year's International Freshman Mentor Program.

Reporter's Notebook

A relatively unknown program has left a smile of satisfaction on the faces of many freshmen this year. This year, 92 freshmen from over 50 different foreign countries arrived on campus to begin their four years of undergraduate study at MIT. While these students had to attend all the mandatory sessions of this year's International Student Orientation, most of them also attended the other optional — and generally more fun — events.

International Student Orientation is entwined with the International Freshman Mentor Program (IFMP), founded in 1997 by Kate Baty '05, the then organizer of the Host to International Students Program and Paulette Schwartz who is still actively involved in the IFMP.

Students Embark On Institute 'Road Trip'

Hockfield Welcomes Freshmen on Killian

By Ji Qi

As summer winds down, new students from all over the country and the world are beginning to arrive on campus for an event-filled orientation.

The theme of this year's undergraduate orientation is "Road Trip." Freshman Orientation t-shirts depict the steps to getting an MIT education as stops on the road of life, and theme related activities include last Saturday's showing of the movie "Road Trip" in Kresge Auditorium and Tuesday's Boston "T" Party along the Stata Center's Student Street.

Freshmen Orientation 2006 kicked off yesterday morning with the President's Convocation held at Killian Court. President Susan Hockfield, Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, and Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, all decked in ceremonial robes, gave speeches.

"MIT is not simply high school on steroids," Hockfield said during her Benjamin Franklin-inspired speech. It is a "uniquely intense environment".

There are several key differences between this year's orientation and those of past years.

Upperclassmen may remember having the math diagnostic for physics placement sent to them over the summer, but this year's freshmen are taking it on campus.

According to associate dean of Academic Resources and Programming Julie B. Norman, the test was

administered on campus years ago, and the physics faculty chose to return to that model this year. The results of the diagnostic will be used to suggest student placement in the three versions of the required Mechanics class.

This year, 17 Freshman Pre-orientation Programs (FPOPs) provided opportunities to explore different activities before orientation began, including four new programs: architecture, biking, electrical engineering, and literature. Nearly 500 freshmen arrived early to participate in FPOPs this year, Norman said.

The freshmen who participated in the four outdoor pre-orientation programs — sailing, kayaking, hiking, and biking — are eligible to receive physical education credit for their participation, a difference from previous years. The Outward Bound Program and Carrie S. Moore, director of physical education, were consulted to "ensure that the programs met the standard and criteria to earn PE credit," Norman said.

Also for the first time, parents have been able to meet their child's orientation leader. Parents and orientation leaders had an opportunity to interact yesterday morning before the President's Convocation, Norman said.

Eliana Aude, mother of Diana P. Aude '10, felt that the President's Convocation was "very inspiring." She said she felt MIT is a "great

Orientation, Page 13



VALERY K. BROBBEY—THE TECH

International students have breakfast on Wednesday, August 23, the final day of International Orientation, in the Lipschitz Courtyard in building 14.

NEWS

Orientation Photo Essay ...Page 11

Grocery Story GuidePage 14

Advocate Ranks Gay-Friendly

Colleges; MIT Named.....Page 15

NEWS

Housing LotteryPage 17

Saferide, Northwest Shuttle,

Tech Shuttle Schedules...Page 17

Daily ConfusionPage 18

World & Nation 2

Opinion 4

Arts 5

Fun..... 6

Campus Life 8

Sports 18

¶ This Wednesday, Aug. 30, is the deadline to register to vote in the Massachusetts state primaries. According to the Cambridge Election Commission webpage, voters can register, mail or fill out a registration card at the Cambridge Election Commission Office. Voters can register as Republican, Democratic, Unenrolled, or another political designation, but only voters registered as Republican, Democratic, or Unenrolled can vote in a Republican or Democratic primary, according to the MassVOTE website. The primaries will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 19th.

The Massachusetts general elections will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The deadline to register to vote in the general elections is Wednesday, Oct. 18.

For more information on voter registration, go to http://www.massvote.org/Voter_Info.htm and http://www.cambridgema.gov/department/cfm?story_id=693

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.

WORLD & NATION

Red Cross Ferry Evacuates 161 In Sri Lanka as Supplies Fade

By Shimali Senanayake
THE NEW YORK TIMES COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

A ferry for the International Committee of Red Cross evacuated 161 people, mostly citizens of other countries, trapped in heavy fighting in northern Jaffna peninsula on Sunday, as aid workers warned of a dwindling supply of food, water and medicine in the area.

Jaffna, the strategic peninsula that the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam claim as the ethnic Tamil homeland, has been cut off by air, land and sea from the rest of the country for three weeks as the worst fighting since a February 2002 cease-fire has raged between rebels and government forces. More than 200,000 people are estimated by the U.N. refugee agency to have been displaced by the last four months of fighting, and officials said on Sunday that food was in very short supply in the area.

The ferry transported foreign aid workers to Trincomalee, an eastern port city, said Davide Vignati, the aid group spokesman in Colombo. Most of those evacuated on the ferry were brought by bus here to the capital.

Baghdad Museum Head Resigns, Cites Political Threat

By Edward Wong
THE NEW YORK TIMES BAGHDAD, IRAQ

The director of the Baghdad Museum has resigned and moved to Syria because he felt under threat from fundamentalists with ties to the Shiite-led government, a Western diplomat said Sunday. The director, Donny George, is known as a prominent advocate for the preservation of antiquities in Iraq.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, which is in charge of the museum, confirmed that George resigned earlier this month and left Iraq a few days ago. “We think he left Iraq to eventually try to go to the United States or a European country,” said the spokesman, Abdul Zahra al-Talaqani.

The Western diplomat, who has some expertise in antiquities, said in a telephone interview on Sunday evening that George had recently told people close to him that he felt threatened. George was a midlevel official in the Baath Party under Saddam Hussein’s government and may be the target of a revenge campaign by Shiites, said the diplomat, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Violence Erupts After Rebel Tribal Leader is Killed

By Carlotta Gall
THE NEW YORK TIMES ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Violent protests broke out in the southern Pakistani province of Baluchistan and in the city of Karachi on Sunday after the killing of a prominent rebel tribal leader in a fierce battle with the army.

Anticipating unrest, the government put the army on alert on Saturday night after the death of the leader, Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, 79, who had dominated the Baluch political scene for more than 50 years. The police closed the main highways from three provinces into the provincial capital, Quetta, and imposed a curfew at 1 a.m.

But protesters defied the curfew, burning tires, ransacking shops and government buildings and setting fire to buses in the city.

Gunfire broke out, and at least three people, including a police officer, were reported killed. A bomb exploded at a government registration office in Qalat, a town just south of Quetta, but no one was reported injured.

Violence broke out across the province during the day, and the police detained 450 people, news agencies reported.

President Pervez Musharraf called a meeting of senior Cabinet ministers and law enforcement agencies, and his spokesman announced soon after that Bugti’s body would be handed over to relatives for burial as soon as it could be retrieved from the rubble of the cave where he died.

Baghdad Newspaper Building Assaulted by Suicide Bomber

By Paul Von Zielbauer
THE NEW YORK TIMES BAGHDAD, IRAQ

A suicide car bomber attacked Iraq’s largest newspaper on Sunday, detonating his vehicle inside its fortified compound in downtown Baghdad and killing two people and injuring 20 others, the executive editor and government officials said.

The bombing was part of a violent day across Iraq in which explosions and gun battles killed at least 52 people, including a U.S. soldier.

In Baghdad, a bomb planted in a commuter bus blew up near the pedestrian entrance of a downtown hotel, killing nine people and wounding 20 others, and a convoy ferrying a deputy defense minister came under heavy gunfire that wounded two bodyguards, government officials said.

The bombing of Al-Sabah, a national newspaper financed by the Shiite-led Iraqi government, also destroyed more than a dozen vehicles and caused the collapse of a quarter of the building where journalists and printing-press operators work, said the executive editor, Falah al-Mishaal.

The attack occurred about 8:30 a.m. Guards carrying automatic as-

sault rifles grew suspicious of the vehicle after it had been cleared to enter the newspaper’s parking lot, al-Mishaal said in an interview. Before the bomber could be killed, he blew up his vehicle, sending at least two parked cars through the building’s wall.

“Tomorrow we will return to work again,” al-Mishaal said.

The attack was the second on Al-Sabah — which means “morning” in Arabic — in three months. On May 6, a suicide bomber in a car set off an explosion at the newspaper’s main vehicle checkpoint, killing one person and wounding several others, al-Mishaal said.

He blamed the attacks on Iraqi insurgent and foreign terrorist groups, including the successor group to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian leader of al-Qaida in Iraq who was killed in an American airstrike in June.

“We have received many threats from Zarqawi’s assistant,” al-Mishaal said. “We published them in the newspaper.”

He said he believed that the bombing on Sunday was also in retaliation for a meeting of Iraqi television and newspaper editors organized by his

newspaper this month where the editors were to sign a “pledge of honor” to respect the government’s reconciliation efforts and to avoid printing or broadcasting inflammatory statements or violent images.

“This is an attack against all Iraqi media,” al-Mishaal said in a telephone interview. “It is a kind of challenge and an attempt to get rid of all free Iraqi media.”

At least 16 journalists working for Al-Sabah and a government-run Baghdad television station have been killed since 2003, media executives here said.

In a statement, Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki “strongly denounced” the attack on Al-Sabah, which he called “a pioneering media organization confronting terror, serving the truth and consolidating unity and national coherence.” Furthermore, he vowed to capture the people behind it.

And yet, in remarks closely following similarly upbeat statements by U.S. military officials in Baghdad, the prime minister also sought to lend optimism to his government’s efforts to bring security to Baghdad and other parts of the country, and to rule out the possibility of civil war.

Online Vendors Shift to Target Back-To-School College Students

By Bob Tedeschi
THE NEW YORK TIMES

For years, older teenagers have been the darlings of online marketers, who see these tech-savvy, free-spending legions as potential lifelong customers.

So why has it taken them this long to discover college students?

The back-to-school shopping season is nearing its culmination, but if this month’s retail offerings are any indication, 2006 was more back-to-college than anything else.

“It’s all about the college students this year,” said Brian Smith, an online retail analyst and publisher of ComparisonEngines.com, which covers shopping comparison sites. “They have more disposable income than other students, and a lot of times they’re looking for that cool new tech product.”

According to the National Retail Federation, an industry trade group, the fastest-growing back-to-college

categories include ones that play to the strengths of online retailers, like consumer electronics, computers and even furniture, which is starting to gain momentum with online consumers.

Sears Holdings, which owns Sears, Lands’ End and Kmart, has gone further than most other online retailers in appealing to college students this year by creating a Web site, SimplySearsCollege.com. Like other online executives, Lorna Sargent, director of e-commerce content for Sears Holdings, struggled to explain why retailers chose this year to pursue college students with such zeal.

“Everyone just kind of realized there was this untapped market out there,” Sargent said.

Perhaps fittingly, the site is designed for visitors who might like to relax a bit, browsing articles and interacting with various features, rather than rushing through the purchase

process. Visitors are greeted with background music ranging from retro rock to contemporary metal, and a screen that bristles with features like idea lists and articles and videos about surviving freshman year.

Those offerings are backed, meanwhile, by a rotating series of oversize images of college students and their gear. A fit young woman, for example, smiles next to “Avoiding the Freshman 15,” a teaser for workout products. Those products include \$20 Reebok running shoes, a \$161 SanDisk MP3 player and a \$200 Schwinn bicycle.

Sargent said SimplySearsCollege.com, which was introduced late last month and is featured as a link on Sears.com, also represents another first for the company, in that Sears Holdings has never before integrated products from Lands’ End, Kmart and Sears on one site.

WEATHER

O-Rain-tation

By Cegeon J. Chan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Besides getting oriented to MIT and meeting new people, don’t forget about Mother Nature. Remember, umbrellas are your friends, particularly in Boston.

The first batch of steady rainfall will move out by noon, but another storm threatens outdoor activities tomorrow as well. There’s (relatively) a lot of uncertainty to the second storm. It may stay south enough for the rain to just miss Boston. It may also slow down, in which case, rain will occur later in the day. In any case, between now and Tuesday night, you will likely need an umbrella.

Is Boston always cloudy and rainy like this? Boston receives about 42 inches of precipitation a year. (For reference, about an inch and a half of rain will have fallen between yesterday and this morning.) It’s not uncommon to go days without seeing the sun. On average, there are 164 days a year where it’s considered “cloudy.” However, there are also 98 days a year that are considered “sunny” and starting Wednesday, it will be sunny. In fact, the end of the week looks dry with temperatures in the 70s°F. So you’ll have to wait until Wednesday to get oriented with the sun.

Extended Forecast

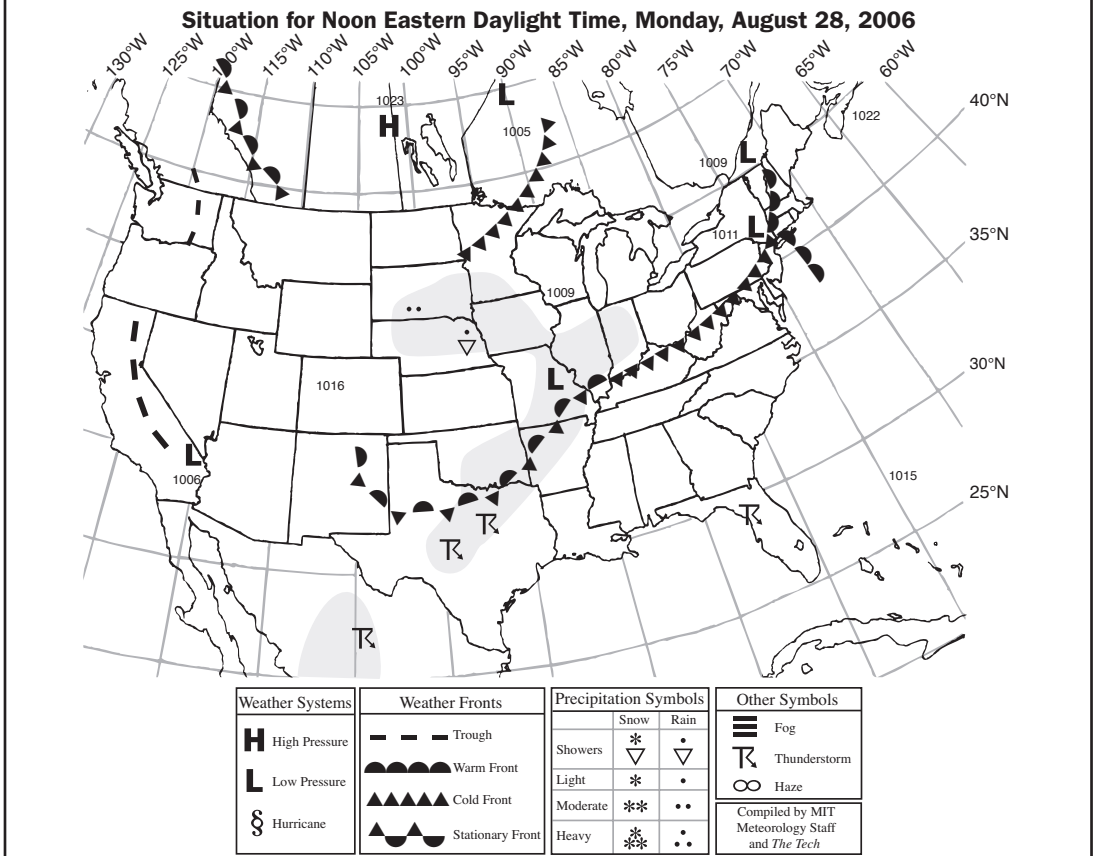
Today: Steady rain in the morning with rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 70s°F (24°C).

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. Lows in the lower 60s°F (16°C).

Tomorrow: Scattered showers in the morning and rain likely in the afternoon. Highs in around 70°F (21°C).

Tomorrow Night: Mostly Cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s°F (15°C).

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s°F (26°C).



Digital Tools Employed to Test Response to Simulated Disaster

By John Markoff
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

It began with a worldwide virus outbreak that had cities under quarantine, emergency workers overwhelmed and government agencies unable to cope. It was compounded by a wave of cyberterror attacks that cut off power, phones and Internet access.

Such was the crisis that teams from the Pentagon, nongovernmental agencies and several dozen technology companies set out to resolve in a five-day simulation meant to show-case and test a new set of digital tools in responding to disaster.

The limitations of even the latest technology were in evidence when an effort to restore communications by setting up ad hoc wireless networks resulted in a three-day data traffic jam.

Yet the problems encountered in the training effort, named Strong

Angel III, did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the participants, a diverse group of more than 800 “first responders,” military officers and software and wireless network experts — some from rivals like Microsoft and Google, working side by side.

“My view is that the value of Strong Angel is 70 percent in the social networks that will be created,” said the organizer, Eric Rasmussen, a Navy surgeon and veteran of relief efforts on several continents. “What we do is try to bring people with disparate back-grounds together and ensure that they are forced to enter into a conversation.”

More than \$35 million in equipment was assembled here as part of the event, aimed at preparing for natural disasters, epidemics, terrorist attacks or the aftermath of war.

Last Monday, the group began to assemble a makeshift command center at an abandoned building near the

San Diego airport. But a state-of-the-art wireless network, intended to route video images, satellite map coordinates and other data — from an impressive array of mobile computers, software analysis tools and command programs — failed to come to life.

“Finally I said, ‘Lights out! Everyone turn everything off and let’s start over,’” said Brian D. Steckler, a computer scientist at the Naval Post-graduate School in Monterey, Calif., who was in charge of more than a dozen interlocking networks at the heart of the command center.

Hundreds of computers and even cell phones were shut down, and then the network was slowly turned back on, segment by segment. Too many high-bandwidth applications had clogged the network, including a powerful video camera and “rogue” transmitters set up by participants intent on creating their own mini-networks.

Fox News Journalists Freed After Declaring Conversion on Videotape

By Steven Erlanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Two journalists kidnapped in Gaza were released unharmed on Sunday after being forced at gunpoint to say on a videotape that they had converted to Islam.

The two journalists for Fox News — Steve Centanni, 60, an American correspondent, and Olaf Wiig, 36, a freelance cameraman from New Zealand — were held for 13 days in an abandoned garage in the Gaza Strip as hostages of a previously unknown group calling itself the Holy Jihad Brigades.

“I’m really fine, healthy, in good shape and so happy to be free,” Centanni told Fox News. He said that the two had been forced at gunpoint to say that they were converting to Islam and had taken Muslim names. “I have the highest respect for Islam,”

he said. “But it was something we felt we had to do because they had the guns and we didn’t know what the hell was going on.”

Earlier on Sunday, their captors delivered a video showing the two men in Arab robes reading from the Quran to indicate their conversion.

After their release, the two men were brought to a hotel in Gaza to be greeted by colleagues. They then met with the prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, Ismail Haniya of Hamas, who had called for their captors to free them.

He dismissed suggestions that any group associated with al-Qaida was in Gaza and said of the kidnappers, “These are young men who carried out the action out of private beliefs.”

But the identities of the kidnappers were a puzzle, and there were no immediate arrests. Nor was there any

immediate indication of a ransom payment. The kidnappers demanded that the United States release all Muslim prisoners, but they threatened no particular consequences.

In Gaza, there was speculation that the group consisted of angry or disaffected members of various militant groups trying to embarrass Haniya and President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah. Others suggested a private grievance. In a brief news conference, Wiig said he hoped the kidnapping would not prevent foreign journalists from covering Gaza. “That would be a great tragedy for the people of Palestine and especially for the people of Gaza,” he said.

Wiig’s wife, Anita McNaught, a television journalist, thanked Palestinian officials and Fox News for their efforts. The men refused to take questions. They traveled to the Erez border crossing and entered Israel.

Wireless Providers Poised To Win Spectrum Licenses

By Ken Belson and Matt Richtel

THE NEW YORK TIMES

When the government’s multibillion-dollar auction of radio spectrum licenses began two weeks ago, it looked as if newcomers might get the chance to buy their way into the mobile phone business, leading to more choices for consumers.

But now the country’s biggest cellular providers appear poised to win many of the 1,122 licenses up for auction, allowing them to expand their reach and reducing the chance that a new entrant might bring down prices.

At the same time, cable companies like Time Warner and Comcast have teamed up with Sprint Nextel to bid on chunks of spectrum to expand their limited presence in the wireless business. Analysts said the cable companies were likely to use the spectrum to offer wireless Web access, not necessarily phone service.

Of the \$13.3 billion in bids registered thus far, \$2.2 billion has come from the cable providers, bidding together in a consortium with Sprint, the third-largest cellular carrier. But about 60 percent of the total bids have come from Cingular, Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile, the first-, second- and fourth-largest cell phone companies. T-Mobile has bid nearly \$4 billion, mostly for licenses in major metropolitan areas, while Cingular and Verizon have sought licenses that cover broader regions.

In throwing their financial weight around, the cell phone companies may have scared off DirecTV and EchoStar, the two largest satellite television providers, which were expected to make a charge into the wireless arena but withdrew from the auction last week.

Rivals Say Data Contradicts Forbes Web Site Claims

By Peter Edmonston

THE NEW YORK TIMES

If Forbes.com was looking to create some Internet buzz last week, it succeeded.

The Web site published an article called “Don’t Marry Career Women,” which suggested that if a man did, he was more likely to be cheated on, get divorced and have a dirty house.

Responses on the Web were swift, with many blogs and sites like Salon.com attacking the posting as a sexist throwback. Forbes.com temporarily withdrew the article and later paired it with an opposing view titled “Don’t Marry A Lazy Man.”

Forbes.com, the online sibling of Forbes magazine and part of Forbes Inc., is more accustomed to delivering the news than being the news. And despite last week’s dust-up, it is adept at it. Even as Forbes magazine has declined in advertising in the last few years, Forbes.com has thrived.

Its own ads proclaim that “more people get their business news from Forbes.com than any other source in the world,” saying that its sites drew about 15 million unique visitors in a single month earlier this year. It was a well-heeled crowd, according to Forbes.com, which says that the average household income of its users is \$149,601.

Forbes’ Web prowess is a big reason Elevation Partners, a private equity firm that counts Bono of U2 as a managing director, agreed on Aug. 4 to buy a minority stake in Forbes’s publishing business. “Forbes has already won the first round” in the battle for Internet supremacy, an Elevation founder, Roger McNamee, said then.

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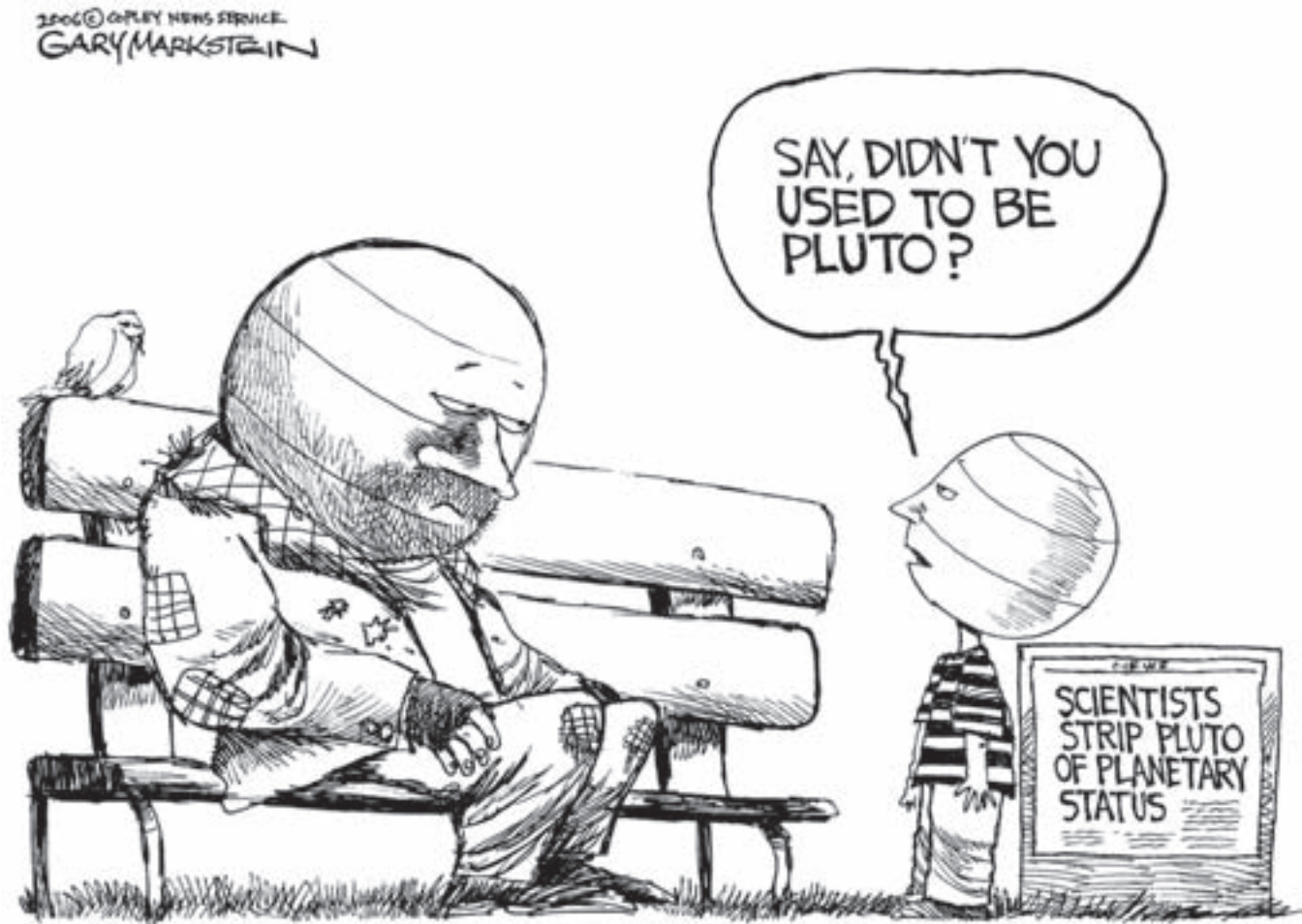
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Corrections

In the In Short section of the Aug. 4 issue of *The Tech*, Professor Steven R. Lerman '72 was incorrectly identified as a housemaster of Sidney-Pacific graduate dorm. Lerman is actually the housemaster of The Warehouse graduate residence (bldg. NW30).

In the Aug. 4 issue of *The Tech*, the table entitled “Comparing Class Demographics” incorrectly reported that two percent of the Class of 2007 identified their race as Other/No Response. Ten percent of the class actually identified their race as Other/No Response.

An August 4 article on IS&T’s spam efforts incorrectly identified the model of the device deployed. It is a “Barracuda Spam Firewall Model 800,” not “BT-800.”



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editors, a senior editor, and an opinion staffer.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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To Reach Us

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

ARTS

CD REVIEW

‘1175 Boylston’ Impressive Debut for Berklee Student Levinson’s Lyrics Capture Complexities of Life

By: Jillian Berry
ARTS EDITOR
“1175 Boylston” by Justin Levinson
Show at Thirsty Ear Pub, Aug. 29 @ 9pm
www.justinlevinson.com

Justin Levinson’s debut album, “1175 Boylston,” can best be described as “powerpop” with its perfectly blended poppy tunes and lyrical depth. A song-writing student at the Berklee College of Music, Levinson is often compared to Ben Folds in sound and style – and with good reason.

Levinson’s piano skills, pure vocals, and songwriting abilities are impressive, and they shine throughout the CD. In particular, his lyrics are insightful and diverse – ranging from the war in Iraq to growing up in a small town to meeting a girl on a bus – yet simple and centered on common experiences. In fact, the songs are so easy to relate to that I began to wonder if he somehow took my thoughts and wrote them down in verse.

All the songs on the album are similar in quality, but a few outshine the rest. The opening song, “Sunny Day,” (which was voted best song at Berklee last year) starts the album off with a bang. While the music is catchy and upbeat, with an equally cheery title (we could all use a sunny day living in Boston), the lyrics show Levinson’s range, as he sings “And it’s true that I think you could use a sunny day/But I think it’s a thing that’s only up to you to make.” He is able to create a mood of somberness without diminishing one’s sense of hope. Furthermore, in “Andria” and “If You Get Lost,” Levinson successfully describes his loneliness and confusion without sounding like a whiny teenager. Furthermore, he demonstrates with “Sophie” how his voice and a piano can be so simple, yet still create a powerful response. Although this album is very good, there are a few minor flaws. Most notably, the songs often end abruptly. There were multiple times when I wish the last note was carried out a little longer or he had sung an extra line. In particular, in “All I Ever Wanted,” Levinson ends with a beautiful piano solo which would have been that much more impressive if he had repeated the chorus one more time instead of leaving

me wanting more. However, the strengths of the album easily compensate for any weaknesses. Overall, “1175 Boylston” is a promising and impressive first record that gets better each time I listen to it.

Justin Levinson will be playing at the Thirsty Ear Pub at MIT on Tuesday, August 29 @ 9pm.

Recently, I was able to talk to Justin one-on-one. Here is the interview.

JB: What are the instruments you play on the album?

JL: On the album I play piano and I sing and I do background harmonies, and I play the trumpet and trombone on it. My dad played a bunch of instruments on it, he played guitar and bass and drums on some tracks. And Adam Popick [Berklee student] played a lot of instruments on it.

JB: Did your parents push you into music?

JL: My dad when I was real young ... I would kind of misbehave when I was real young, and I was in this program in first grade and the teacher divided the day into three parts, and at the end of the day I would get a piece of paper with stamps on it for each part of the day, and if I got three stamps it meant I was good for every part of the day. So if I got this for a whole week, I would get a reward [from my dad], and my reward was to get a CD, and I got like Beatles, Elvis Presley, and Everly Brothers CDs. I just ended up with this huge collection.

JB: What musicians have inspired you?

JL: The Beatles are my favorite band. I love Paul McCartney and John Lennon. I’m a big fan of Ellie Smith, and Ben Folds I like a lot. A lot of people have compared me to him, but I try not to sound exactly like him. The Beach Boys, and it’s such a big list.

JB: What are your musical aspirations?

JL: I’d like to just make a living playing music. Hopefully, people will appreciate it.

Maybe they’ll relate to it. I’m not looking to be like huge, but if that happened, it’d be great.

JB: How do you like performing live?

JL: I love performing live. I just love even before a show starts. I love just putting my equipment inside the van, even if it turns out to be a dive, just loading up the equipment, I’m pumped.

JB: When you write the song, do you have a method? Do you write the actual music first or do you write the lyrics first?

JL: All writers tend to do it differently. Typically, I’ll start out with a chord progression, and depending on what the vibe is – if it’s kind of sad or happy, or if it’s slow or fast – I really like chord changes, so when I get something I like, I get really excited.

JB: Do your parents support you with the music?

JL: Totally, 100%. My dad was a musician back in the day in NYC. Since early on, he was totally backing me. I wasn’t sure if I wanted to go to Berklee because I was intimidated by it, I thought everyone will be so good, I’ll be the worst player here. I wanted to go to some small school in the middle of nowhere, but [my dad] said no, I have the opportunity, so I should just do it. And he helped me financially. To make an album is huge money. He paid for the majority of it. Both my mom and my dad are really supportive people.

JB: How do you like being in Boston and being at Berklee?

JL: I love Boston. It’s so nice. It reminds me of Vermont where I’m from; the same type of vibe, it’s really New England-y, and I think the people here are really open-minded and nice. With Boston, I can handle it, being from a small town in Vermont - when I go to NY I’m like “Oh my God, this is too big, I’ll never survive it” – it’s livable. And I do like Berklee a lot.

JB: Based on your songs, it sounds like you’re from a small town in Vermont. What was your town like, and how has it affected your

music?

JL: My town is a good place to grow up in. It’s really small, and really pretty – a good place for nature – but it was really secluded. It definitely gave me the feeling that I wanted to get out and spread my wings a bit. But it was also another really supportive community. In Vermont, people are mad friendly, and help you out a lot. When I play shows up there, all my friends come out and back me.

JB: You’re in your own fan club on Facebook. What’s up with that?

JL: That’s so funny. Actually my buddy from Germany, he’s been a big supporter, his name is Lars, he loves my music. He sends me postcards all the time. I met him in high school on an exchange. He’s been helping me out, doing anything he can, and he surprised me with a Justin Levinson fan club. He sent me the invitation for it, and I thought it was kinda lame joining my own group, but I’ll take it anyway.

JB: You have an interesting approach to singing about the war in Iraq, often referring to it indirectly and focusing more on its effects on individual lives, particularly in “Fireflies” and “The Sky is Falling”. What inspired you to address the situation in this way?

JL: When you bring politics into music, you can already split your fan base. I guess what inspired me the most was seeing my friends going overseas, and seeing them come back.

JB: The CD is named after the address of your first apartment?

JL: I think I was really not creative. I feel there was something cheesy about it at Berklee since everyone lives on Boylston Street. But I just decided to name it that since I wrote all the songs in there. I took an entire year and just stayed in my room, just wrote tons of songs. I was so not social, and out of the loop for a while, but I just wanted to make a record.

JB: But you don’t live there anymore?

JL: I actually live at 1109 Boylston, which is just a little down the street. Everyone keeps joking, are you going to name your next album 1109 Boylston?

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★½

‘The Illusionist’ Dazzles A Spellbinding Tale of Love and Magic

By Bill Andrews
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR
The Illusionist
Starring: Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti, Jessica Biel, and Rufus Sewell
Directed by: Neil Burger
Now Playing

I thought *The Illusionist* was an art house film. Perhaps it was the Gothic nineteenth century Viennese locale, perhaps it was the slightly pretentious word “illusionist,” or perhaps it was that the screening I saw was at the Museum of Fine Arts. What, I ask you, could be more artsy than the MFA? Well, it turns out I was half right. The subject matter, style, and overall quality were up to traditionalist art house standards; the casting was not. Thank goodness it worked out anyway.

We begin with the title role, the Illusionist (magician) himself, Eisenheim, played by Edward Norton. I once heard someone say, “Ed Norton and Kevin Spacey should do a movie together called, *We’re just normal guys...no wait we’re Weird!*” and this movie is no exception. The dark, brooding, ethereal characterization of Eisenheim established, and then harmo-

nized with, the film’s dreary mood, and Norton threw himself into every last tortured moment. His illusions are so well performed that it’s difficult to tell whether they’re actual CG or just good ol’ sleight of hand magic.

Next is the love interest, a surprisingly talented Jessica Biel. Best known for her part in 7th Heaven and showing her parts in various magazines, Biel was quite believable as the forlorn beauty destined to marry not her true love (Eisenheim, in case you’ve never seen a movie before), but instead the evil crown prince Leopold, heir to the emperorship. While Biel and Rufus Sewell (as the prince) did well enough with what they had, their characters were largely flat, unchanging, and uncomplicated. That’s not always a bad thing, and this movie works just fine with only two complex characters, but it would’ve spiced things up to have more than the stock ‘girl’ and ‘bad guy’.

The other complex character is Chief Inspector Uhl, played by the always complex (and great) Paul Giamatti. I’m becoming increasingly convinced that, like Tom Hanks, there is no role Giamatti would not rock at. Uhl is the wild card in this story, keeping the action moving (quite literally for most of the movie,

as it is mostly told as a flashback with him narrating) and keeping things from becoming too predictable. Uhl’s slow and subtle transformation from craven lackey to honorable policeman is entirely realistic and believable, even if a little predictable.

The story itself, however, is not quite so predicable. Though initially dismayed when I realized it was, pretty much, a love story, I was happy to see it was not a conventional one, even though it strayed dangerously close at times. Beyond the simple love triangle is a web of deceit, treachery, and murder, some of it apparently as logic-defying as Eisenheim’s orange tree trick. Set against the backdrop of a society where electricity and moving pictures seem like magic tricks themselves, the sense of looking forward while being tied to the past comes through in the characters as well. Time moves on, and no illusion can change the past.

Or can it? As Eisenheim’s tricks become more and more flat-out-impossible, we’re left questioning what else might be real or false, what other tricks might be going on, what more we don’t know. As time within the story starts to catch up to the beginning of the movie (when Uhl begins narrating the flashback), more and more

is happening and by the climax we are in such breathless suspense that it seems it can’t possibly all work, all tie-in together. But it does, in one of the most satisfying endings I’ve seen all year.

But then, ‘The Illusionist’ is a movie that satisfies on all levels. It’s visually dramatic, dark and creepy with a few colors and sentimentality added in via Vaseline blurring the edges of the screen, lending shots the appearance of old photographs. The score does just what a score should do, intensifying your emotions without distracting you. The sets evoke both the old world charm of a Europe long gone by, and the danger and polite savagery that were so prevalent. If there is a flaw, it is only that so much more could have been done. If this movie set out to be a masterpiece, a film of drama, suspense, love, and violence, a tale of the redemption of the corrupt and the inevitable failure of greed, it could have done so with only slightly more effort. Instead it’s a movie that’s pretty good, but not great. Of course, with the way things are in Hollywood these days, taking a risk and making a great film might just be asking one magic trick too many.

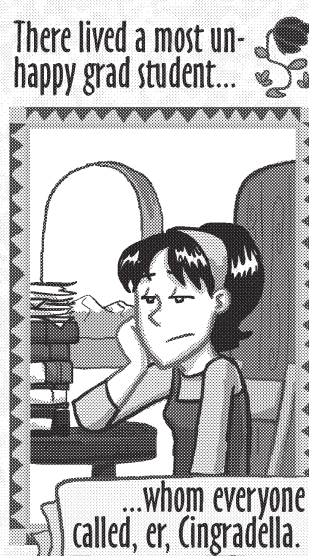
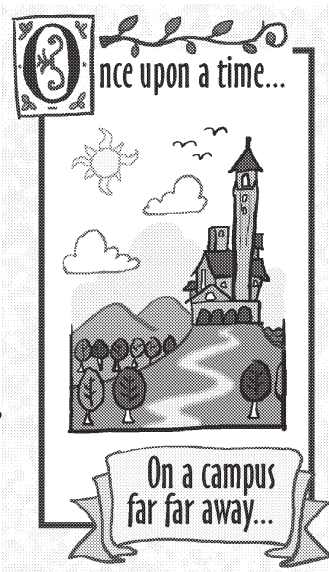
Take a chance, see ‘The Illusionist’. You’ll be amazed.

Want to sound off about something you see in *The Tech*?

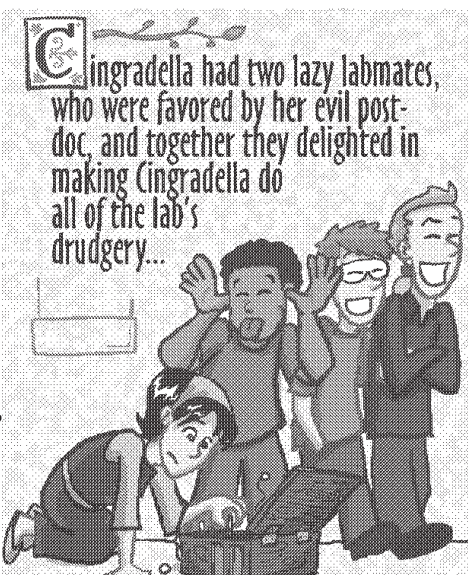
Write a letter to the editor!

letters@the-tech.mit.edu

Submissions are due 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.



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FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

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by Scott Adams

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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 16.

CAMPUS LIFE

Making it Work

Fashion@MIT

By Ruth Miller
STAFF COLUMNIST

MIT Fashion is a funny thing. At few other places can one get away with, nay, win applause for a duct tape tuxedo.

Generally, fashion isn't a concern of the MIT student. Even the smallest heel will echo up and down the Infinite, and once the first cold snap hits, all the warm-weather freshmen pile on every single piece of clothing they own with abandon. Weighting grooming over sleep is difficult, and by your second year, MIT goggles will ensure that you don't care what anyone else looks like anyway.

Why buy shirts when tons of companies shell out big bucks to come to MIT and give them to you for free? And is it necessary to change clothes every time the sun rises or just when you wake up?

Questions like these plague the modern MIT student. But for those who still strive for acceptance off-campus, or want to improve on the cross-gender campus status quo of jeans and T-shirt, here's a quick guide to fashion by major, in handy decreasing order of fashion consciousness:

Management – Suits. Every management major I know is always running around to interviews, and owns at least one suit. Taking classes in the Sloan building will make you feel like a slob, so even if you aren't a Sloanie, but take a class in their building, wear a suit. Especially on free

food days.

Political Science/Economics – Every political scientist/economist dreams of some day gaining one of the few coveted high profile spots in the field. Expect to see a few ties, and a lot of business wear. Realistically, almost all political scientists/economists must accept that they will probably spend their days in libraries doing research. Hence, layers are good (those library thermostats are fickle). You can't study either field without a brief mention of Europe, so irony provides a heavy dose of European style.

Urban Planning - The graduate students of Urban Planning are probably the most trendy of any department. The undergrads, psychologically stuck between 4 and 17, compromise with a steady commitment to business casual.

Architecture - Most architects distinguish their profession by wearing a lot of black. Why black? The better to accentuate their accessories. But at MIT, Architecture students are likely to see so little sunlight, that it is in their best interest to remind themselves of the appearance of color as best they can. 4.101 Introduction to Architecture is MIT's closest approximation to Greenwich Village: home sewn clothes, funky colors, and, of course, lots of geometric lines and shapes.

Biology – One of the major lessons of 7.012 is gene regulation: take an organism, turn off one

gene, and follow the stream of resulting effects to see what happens. Such is fashion. Take a complete outfit, tweak, and study the result. Biology students have an inherent ability to see the cause and effect in outfit assemblage. Expect to see complex combinations. That, and close-toed shoes – safety first.

Chemistry/Chemical Engineering – The world is made of elements that can be combined into compounds. Some compounds are good, while others are bad. Much like fashion, chemistry requires knowing how to construct useful and attractive combinations. Unafraid of chemical hair dye, Chemists and Chemical Engineers also make good use of close-toed shoes.

Civil Engineering – Engineering, yes, but a field of engineering that often involves a fair amount of government work. Government work implies a slightly more formal dress code.

Materials/Mechanical Engineering – Engineers that can get by without seeing the light of day. Let's say "casual."

Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences – The most environmentally friendly of the majors is thus the most reminiscent of the 1960s. Crocs, the dishwasher-safe shoes, are abundant.

Aeronautics and Astronautics/Nuclear Engineering – A very good friend of mine is in

Aero/Astro, and he has worked very hard to bring back the look of the 1969 NASA engineer – boxy, pressed shirt and pants, pocket protector. How else will the fashionistas of the future protect their shirt pockets from ink stains? If useless legwarmers can be popular (twice), it's only a matter of time before pocket protectors hit the mainstream.

Physics/Math - How can anyone look at closed paths all day and not see futility in dressing up? They're going to end up in the hamper at the end of the day, so you might as well choose the system that involves the least amount of work.

Computer Science – By Digital Death Lab, if you still care about how you look, you're going to be fine.

There exists a realm beyond the physical world where being super-smart transcends the rules of mortal clothing. If the purpose of fashion is to impress, wear a baggy black T-shirt and pants into an electronics store and explain to the clerks how their products work. Dressing well isn't as important as knowing how to reason and think, and teachers and employers know that. But it never hurts to put your best foot forward. And after a week of drudgery, sometimes dressing to the 9's and going out for Thai is a great way to slough off the doldrums.

The only superlative rule of MIT Fashion: hygiene is your friend.

"Leaving Stanford"



Waseem and Ray.



photostats

When: Aug. 27, 3 p.m. PDT
Where: Palo Alto, Calif.
Road: Palm Drive, Stanford
WGS84 coords: 37.43245, -122.16893
URL: wt.mit.edu/roadtrip/aug27
Camera: Canon EOS 20D
Shutter speed: 1/800 sec
Distance traveled:
Ray: 883 miles
Waseem: 20 miles
Nivair: 0 miles
Flat tires: 0
Accidents: 0
Times out of gas: 0
Speed limit: 25 mph
Red lights: none in view

Road Trip 2006: Day 1

On Saturday, our photographer Ray C. He said goodbye to Seattle and his summer at Amazon.com and drove 850 miles down to Google (in Mountain View, Calif.) to pick up Waseem S. Daher. Feeling lucky, they snapped this picture Sunday afternoon in Google's academic backyard — Stanford University — at the start of their long way back to MIT.

The Tech: Any deep thoughts? It's the beginning of your 3,200-mile journey.

Waseem: Not really. I'm just excited to start. I do have some remorse about the end of the summer, but we're both antsy to get back to MIT for our senior years. Plus, I've never explored the middle of the country before. We're going to swim in the Great Salt Lake, exit the West through its gateway — St. Louis — and I'm going to a wedding and a funeral in Ohio. So beginnings and endings all around. Is that deep enough?

TT: On your way, could you ambush some interesting people and tell us all about them?

Waseem: We'll see.

Imminent Collapse

Welcome to Hell

By Bill Andrews
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Welcome one and all to MIT. I'm sure you've all worked hard to get here, and are prepared to work harder soon. Perhaps, like Luke Skywalker, you're thinking you're not scared of a little hard work. But, like Yoda, I feel I must warn you: you will be. *You will be.* MIT is definitely the 'Empire Strikes Back' of your academic career, and there aren't even any chase scenes (probably). I'm not going to sugarcoat it for you: MIT sucks. You'll hate this f...ore-saken place soon, mark my words. If you were looking forward to college being the best years of your life, you've made a wrong turn, buddy.

That's not to say, of course, that it's not worth it to come here. I'm sure you people of froshness can quote to me a million and one reasons why MIT is the best school in the country (which it is), and I don't doubt any of them. But I do doubt that 'it's a fun place to be' is in that list. We're known for being hardcore,

uber nerds, who know what capacitors are and use words like uber. The only time people think of MIT and 'partying' in the same sentence is when fatalities are involved. Hey, I'm just telling it like it is.

But that's no reason to get depressed. MIT realizes it sucks, and does what it can to suck less, even occasionally becoming fleetingly enjoyable. To start with, there are roughly 1.4 billion student groups on campus that you can be a part of. Theater groups, political, gaming, film, musical, writing groups, we've even got a marching band here; odds are whatever you're interested in, there's a club for you, full of like-minded people who could possibly become your friends (and, in my case once, my fiancée). And, if you can't find the right club, you could probably start one yourself and get some (modest) funding for it.

There's even a wide array of athletic groups, teams even, that would be happy to have you, assuming you aren't terrible (and very few

people are so terrible they can't make MIT's sports teams). Some teams are actually really good, such as the Pistol Team, which regularly whips West Points's collective butt. Now that's nerd pride. I mean, when a school's mascot is the Beaver, you know it's not entirely without a sense of fun.

If that's not enough to keep you entertained, there are also these things called hacks that pop up every now and then. Nothing can brighten an otherwise dull and dreary afternoon like looking up at the big dome and seeing, say, a police car on top, or perhaps a telephone booth.

If all this isn't enough for you, I hasten to point out that Boston is right across the river from us, and it's a pretty cool place. Historical, trendy, urban, and lots more adjectives, you can have fun in Boston with relatively little hassle. I implore you to remember this when term starts to get rough, and you do nothing but eat, go to class, and maybe sleep (and please, God, shower too). Just taking a walk through

the city can be immensely calming.

These are all things that should be made clear to you during the week, this magical time known as orientation. Just so you know: this is the best that it gets. At no other time will you be as without responsibility or work as you are right now, so enjoy it. Don't buy anything (food, supplies, even text books) until classes start, you never know who will be giving away what. Eventually orientation will end, and you'll find yourself in the midst of term. Then you'll see what this whole IHTFP thing you've heard of is all about.

Yes it'll suck. But it has to suck. MIT is like baseball, if it were easy everyone would do it. Luke suffered trials and tribulations in Dagobah, but it made him a Jedi Knight. You'll go through some sleepless nights, some administrative nonsense, and some hard times here@mit.edu, don't doubt it. But you'll emerge an MIT graduate, which, I hear, is about as close to becoming a Jedi as we can get.

Call SIPB with
questions at x3-7788!

Ask SIPB

Drop by our office
in W20-557!

By The Student Information Processing Board (SIPB)

Welcome, especially to freshmen and new grad students! Ask SIPB is a column published regularly by the Student Information Processing Board (the volunteer student group concerned with computing at MIT), to help students like you learn more about the computing resources MIT provides and how to make effective use of them. This column is the first of 4 introductory columns meant to help you get started with computing here at MIT.

I don't have a computer/printer/scanner. Where can I go?

MIT has a number of clusters sprinkled around campus, containing Athena workstations and printers. You can access the software and your files from any Athena workstation. These workstations run Unix, specifically Linux and Solaris, and provide a common user interface regardless of where you log in. The New Media Center is in 26-139, and provides the tools necessary to produce multimedia projects, such as digital video, photo scanning and manipulation, web authoring, and more. The NMC is a "do-it-yourself" cluster of iMacs and G5 Power Macs loaded with the latest multimedia software. There are also two clusters of machines running Windows-Athena - one in the back room of the W20-575 cluster, and one in 37-312 that you can access with your MIT ID.

You can find a list of Athena clusters on the back of the Athena Pocket Reference you received when you checked in, or by typing:

`athena% cview`

How do I get into the Athena clusters or New Media Center?

The Athena clusters and NMC are protected by push-button combo locks. To find out the current cluster combo, on any Athena machine type:

`athena% tellme combo`

The combo changes annually on October 1. Shortly before that time, you can use tellme combo again to learn the new combo.

Why are there couches and giant screens and whiteboards in corners of some of the clusters?

They are collaborative group spaces, deployed two years ago. They were designed to make working in groups at MIT both easier and more powerful. To learn more or provide feedback, check out this website: <http://edtech.mit.edu/times/archives/000027.html>.

Should I set up my personal computer now?

If you are an undergrad, in general, it is best if you do not set up your computer right away. Unless you live in McCormick, which has forced room squatting, you will almost certainly be moving either to another dorm, or at least another room.

If you need to use a computer, the Athena clusters are easily accessible all over campus. Even though SIPB is a student group dedicated to improving computing at MIT, we encour-

age you to go out, and take part in the vast opportunities you have during Orientation and Residence Exploration. Find the dorm that's right for you, and learn about and join the activities that interest you. Talk to other freshmen and upperclassmen, and ask any questions you may have about anything.

Once you move to your room for the fall term on Thursday, feel free to set up your computer. When you do, you should apply any updates immediately. You can find more details at <http://web.mit.edu/net-security/>. If you are running Windows, you also must follow the directions at <http://web.mit.edu/net-security/prevent-reinfection.html> to avoid having your computer compromised, which would necessitate a format and reinstall of the operating system.

But I want my computer now. What do I do?

You'll need a network cable and settings. To set up DHCP, set your computer to get your IP address automatically (which is often the default), and then go to any website. For more details on this, go to one of the "Getting Connected" sessions listed in your guide.

After you move to your permanent room, you can also choose to ask an RCC for a static IP address, which will be tied to the dorm that you are in. Having one will not prevent you from using DHCP elsewhere on campus.

For a network cable, you can either ask an RCC or visit the OLC office in N42. RCC's (or Residential Computing Consultants) are students who get paid to assist other students, usually residents of the same dorm. They can do everything from assigning IP addresses, to providing network cables, to helping you configure networking on your computer. To get in contact with your RCC, ask around your dorm or visit <http://rcc.mit.edu/> to submit a request.

I forgot my password. What do I do?

You'll need to visit the friendly folks at Accounts. Bring your MIT ID to N42 during business hours and ask for a password reset. Alternatively, if you have personal certificates on your computer, you can reset your password at: <http://wserv.mit.edu/cpw>.

Help! Something broke! Who can help?

Depending on what broke and how, there are a number of groups that can assist you.

You can come ask SIPB in person or via email. Our office is W20-557 (right next to the Athena cluster). Anytime members are in the office, the office is open to answer questions. You can also phone SIPB at x3-7788 or email sipb@mit.edu.

OLC is Athena Online Consulting, MIT's official support group for Athena related questions. OLC has a set of stock answers for Athena related questions on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/answers/>. To ask OLC a question, first make sure the question isn't already answered in the Stock Answers, then type at an Athena prompt:

`athena% olc`

They have an office in N42, open for walk-in support

9:15am to 4:45pm M-F. You can also call 617-253-4435 or e-mail olc@mit.edu. Online support is available 8:30am to 5:30pm. Consultants are also occasionally on duty on weekends or holidays. To see updated hours, type at an Athena prompt:

`athena% olc hours`

MIT IS&T staffs the Computing Help Desk, which provides free support for Macintosh and Windows. The Help Desk phone lines are open Monday-Friday from 8 am to 6 pm; walk-ins are welcome in the office in N42 from 9:15 am to 5 pm. For help, call 617-253-1101, e-mail computing-help@mit.edu, or drop by N42.

The Computing Help Desk also maintains a set of stock answers for common Macintosh and Windows questions encountered by MIT community members, at <http://itinfo.mit.edu/answer>.

If you are having trouble getting your computer onto your dorm network, you can ask an RCC for help. You can contact your local RCC by filling out a form at <http://rcc.mit.edu/>.

What is 3-DOWN?

3-DOWN, which can be found at <http://3down.mit.edu/>, provides information about both scheduled and unscheduled network and service outages. The same information can also be found via a recorded message at x3-DOWN (x3-3696). Before reporting an outage, it is useful to check 3-DOWN to see if it is already known.

How can I learn more about computing and computing at MIT?

Throughout term, there are a number of ways you can learn more about computing or computing specifically at MIT. IS&T provides some documentation on various components of Athena at <http://web.mit.edu/olh/>; we'll cover some of those topics in the next several issues. On Wednesday, September 6, SIPB will run our annual Computer Tours, which visit a number of machine rooms and cool labs around campus. SIPB will be offering weekly Cluedumps, a series of 30-45 minute informal technical talks on Monday nights at 8:30 PM in 3-133, starting September 11. The first few talks will give a technical introduction to the MIT computing environment, while later talks will cover a wide variety of subjects. To receive announcements about Cluedumps, add yourself to the moira mailing list cluedump-announce. If you do not know how, find out in tomorrow's column about mail at MIT. Also, during IAP (January), a number of classes are offered by several organizations (including IS&T and SIPB).

To ask us a question, send email to sipb@mit.edu. We'll try to answer quickly, and we might address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our website: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>



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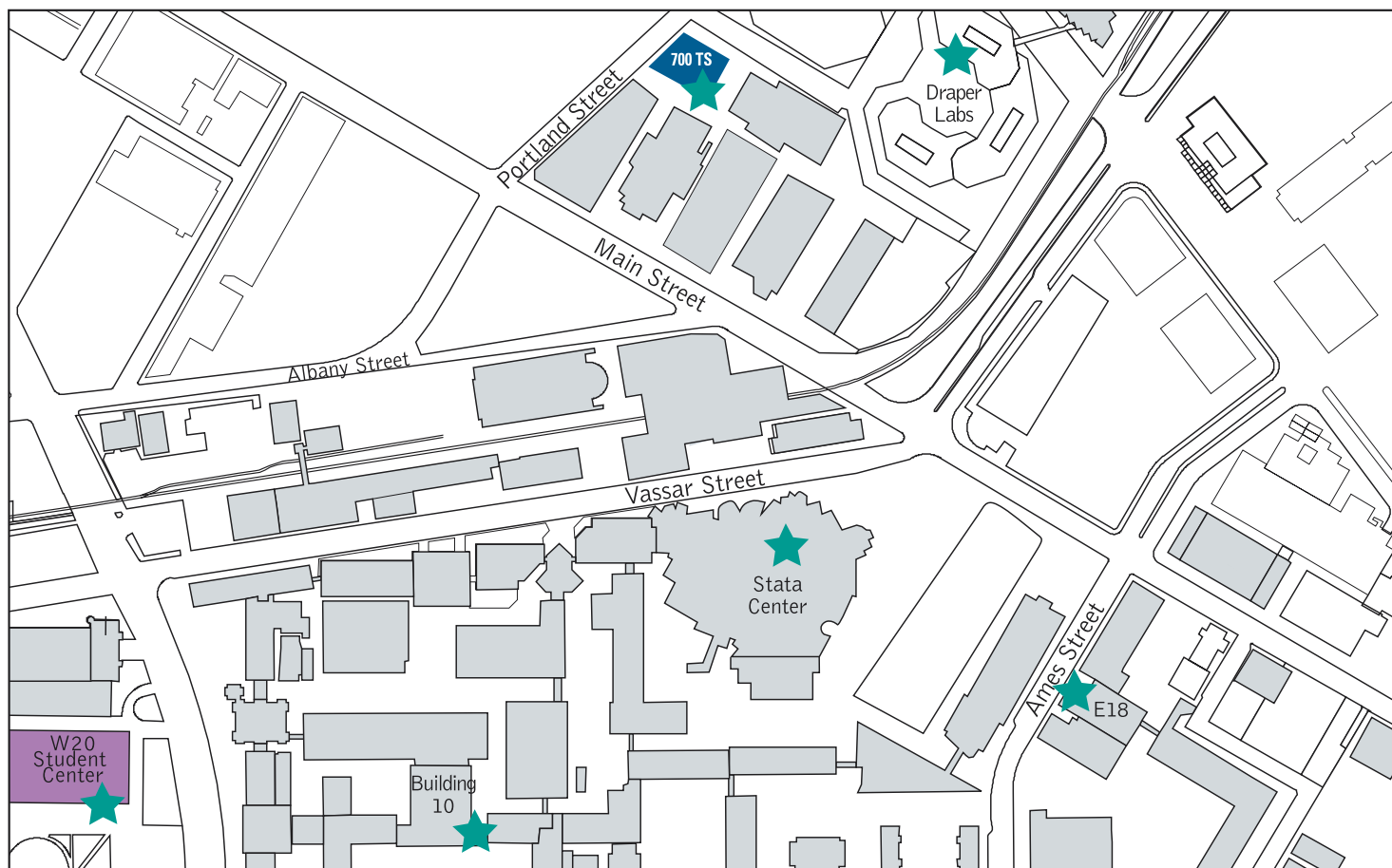
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MIT
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Freshmen Rock Kresge Talent Show



Above: Srinivasan B. Mani '10 and Serdar Karatekin '10 play an instrumental duet to a full house during Sunday Night's Orientation Ceremonies in Kresge Auditorium.
Below: Kresge goes wild at last night's freshman talent show.
Photography by Ricardo Ramirez





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REX Schedule Better Than Previous Years

Upperclass Mentors Meet New International Students at Logan

REX, from Page 1

that instead of two big parties for the East and West dorms, there will be four parties," Hopp said. "Random Hall and Simmons are geographically isolated from other dorms. This change will allow them to present their dorm culture without any travel."

Dormitory Council (Dormcon) hopes that this year's REX will be even more successful than last year when many freshmen entered the adjustment lottery. Last year, about 16 percent of the Class of 2009 requested to move out of their temporary dormitory assignments in the adjustment lottery, as previously reported in *The Tech*.

"We hope that freshmen will find

the dorm that best suits them instead of staying in a dorm which is good enough just because it is convenient to remain there," Hopp said.

According to Hopp, this year's orientation and REX activities are scheduled better than last year, "thanks to advance communication between the Academic Resource Center and Dormcon."

One change was having CityDays on Friday this year instead of early in the week as it has been scheduled in the past. The change was made because CityDays conflicted with REX events.

"As a result, freshmen will not have scheduling conflicts to impede their dormitory exploration," REX Assistant Chair Allison M. Jacobs '08 said.

International, from Page 1

dialogue," Schwartz said.

About 45 freshmen signed up for the mentor program, which is not mandatory, and about 27 upperclass international students volunteered to be mentors for this year's program.

There were a total of seven mentor groups, with on average four mentors and six freshmen. I, along with the three other mentors in my group, answered questions relating to course selection, the Independent Activities Period, dorms, dorm supplies, and clothing. This advice is similar to that given on the admissions blogs but on a much more personal level.

Arguably, the most important part of the mentor program is the airport

pickup.

"I had some problems with delayed baggage, and if I had to deal with the situation alone it would have been very difficult," wrote Iliya T. Tsekov '08 from Bulgaria, in his application to be a mentor in this year's program.

I met fellow mentor Adelaide S. Calbry-Muzyka '09 from Canada and France at the Kendall "T" Stop August 18 at noon. She was equipped with a sign with "Arka Dhar" boldly printed on it. We arrived at Logan's Terminal B to find a handful of people in the mentor program, including Schwartz and Robert G. Leke '07 from Cameroon. Leke, plagued by a bad experience with his arrival freshman year, wanted to be transportation

coordinator to prevent others from having to deal with the stress he went through.

In all, he spent more than 20 hours at the airport on the weekend of international student arrivals. A total of 36 incoming international freshmen requested to be picked up at the airport.

That Friday, as we stood chatting and waiting for our freshmen to arrive, a young man walked up to us and introduced himself as Arka.

Arka P. Dhar '10 from India had just arrived in Boston on a connecting flight from Chicago. Along with Abdulaziz M. Albahar '10 from Kuwait who had also just arrived at the airport, we began our journey back to campus.

Calbry-Muzyka and I helped Dhar register and check in to his room. He was grateful to his mentors for "helping me carry my baggage to the fourth floor of East Campus."

We said goodbye to Dhar just in time to get back to the airport to pick up Joe Khoury '10 from Lebanon.

One of my favorite airport pickup moments was when two Turkish students, Cankutan Hasar '10 and Serdar Karatekin '10 arrived on separate flights that were moments apart. Neither they nor the mentors realized that they were both from Turkey until they introduced themselves and spontaneously started speaking in their native language.

After a weekend of arrivals, International Student Orientation officially began on the morning of August 21.

"Something that I definitely liked was the free food," said Christian B. Santoso '10 from Indonesia. "Aside from that, I could gladly say that MIT people are friendly in general."

Adriana N. Ciccone '09 from Canada, one of the coordinators of this year's orientation, described it as a "great opportunity to introduce freshmen to U.S. culture."

Events included an information session at MIT Medical, a Duck Tour, a shopping trip, a campus tour, a party and quite a few breakfasts, barbeque lunches, and dinners in Boston restaurants.

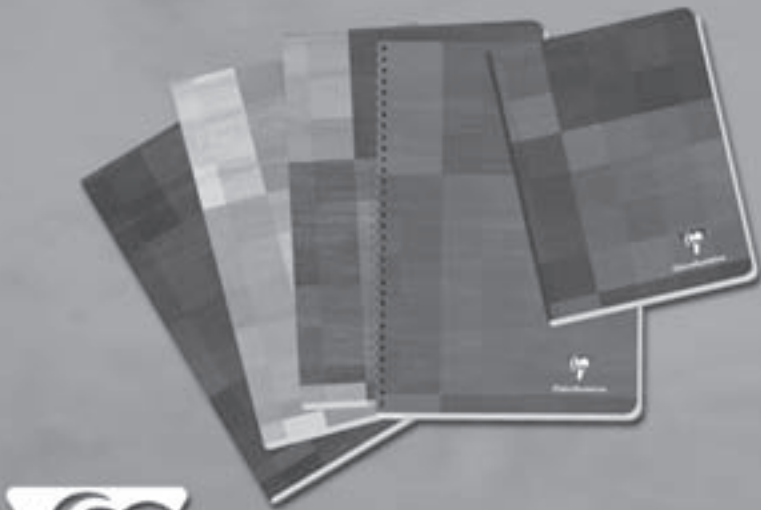
Schwartz said that international students always tell her that they make their closest friends during International Student Orientation.

Later in an interview, Dhar said that he feels he now knows more about MIT and Boston than some of his American friends. Maitagorri H. Schade '10 from Germany admitted that International Orientation was more enjoyable than her Freshman Pre-Orientation Program.

Perhaps the only event that was not very popular was the mandatory immigration session. When I was a freshman two years ago, I remember listening to tips about how to avoid violating immigration rules. "The immigration session was boring," said Ana-Maria A. Piso '10 from Romania.

The boring session did have one positive effect: helping the students bond. Soon the students were joking about what they knew they should avoid in any case. "Don't get those American girls pregnant," said Kellas R. Cameron '10 from the United Kingdom, with lots of laughter at the table. "It's going to be difficult but I'll try," responded Styliani Gaitani '10, a female student from Greece.

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Application Deadline	Friday, September 29, 2006
Supporting Material Deadline	Friday, October 13, 2006
Site Visit & Committee Review	Thursday, November 9, 2006

Second Round (projects must begin on or after Thursday, March 15, 2007)

Application Deadline	Friday, January 26, 2007
Supporting Material Deadline	Friday, February 9, 2007
Site Visit & Committee Review	Thursday, March 1, 2007

Third Round (projects must begin on or after Thursday, May 17, 2007)

Application Deadline	Friday, April 6, 2007
Supporting Material Deadline	Friday, April 20, 2007
Site Visit & Committee Review	Thursday, May 3, 2007

Grants Guidelines: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html>

Application form: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantform.html>



Clip 'n' save for your files! Welcome back!



Solution to Crossword

from page 6

I	M	P		S	C	A	M			O	L	D	B	O	Y
L	O	O	P	H	O	L	E			S	E	R	A	P	E
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S	T	E	T	S		M	A	W		S	P	I	N	E	
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S	L	U	I	C	E					L	A	O	S		
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I	D	I	O	M		O	N	E		E	M	A	I	L	
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O	V	A	T	E			D	R	E		S	T	R	A	P
V	I	S	A	G	E					S	A	N	D	I	E
A	C	T	I	O	N					O	L	E	A	N	D
S	T	E	R	N	S					N	E	C	K		S

New Grad Students To Enjoy Cultural Activities

Orientation, from Page 1

opportunity for my daughter to do whatever she wants and pursue her dreams."

Other notable changes includes the elimination of Playfair, and the replacement of Kate Koester's speech with Sex Signals as the program to address sexual assault. Other student leaders from the Undergraduate Association, Dormitory Council, and the Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups will be a part of the opening event along with the orientation coordinators for the first time.

This year's student orientation coordinators are Edward G. Fagin '08, Will J. Fotsch '08, and Lara E. Kostun '08, who declined to comment on the opening event.

The Class of 2010 currently has 1,009 students and is approximately 45 percent female, Associate Director of Admissions Matt McGann said. This number is down from the 1,017 printed on the orientation t-shirts, though this decrease is common for all colleges and is referred to as "summer melt," McGann said. The class is made up of students from 49 states, the District of Columbia, two territories and 51 other countries, Hockfield said during her Convocation speech.

Grad orientation three weeks long

Graduate Student Orientation also kicked off yesterday, but unlike Freshman Orientation, events will run for three weeks through Sept. 17. These events "aim to get the incoming students to become more aware of the campus, to get them informed, and to let them get to know each other," Graduate Orientation Co-chair Johnna D. Powell G said.

There are 1,384 new graduate students on campus this fall and a total of 1,585 including those who arrived over the summer, Graduate Orientation Co-chair Lynne K. Waldman G said.

This year's Graduate Student Orientation features a variety of activities to "appeal to a broad range of people," Powell said. Several dance parties are targeted at making new students more aware of different cultures. The Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego? orientation party, named after a geography-themed computer game and TV show, will showcase three rooms representing the culture, cuisine, and music of three different geographical regions, Waldman said. The Dance Fusion V party at Ashdown, featuring a Pirates of the Caribbean theme, will also have separate rooms where students can take swing and salsa lessons, Waldman said.

"Although last year's orientation was spectacular, we are hoping to make this year's as good or even better," Powell said. The Carmen Sandiego Party, a trip to Six Flags, and apple picking trips are all new this year. Cut from the traditional line up are the whale watching trip, which were difficult to sell out, and the Red Sox game, which was dropped because tickets were too hard to come by, according to Powell.

The year's program also expands on last year's Grad School 101 by adding Grad School 102. While the former provides students with advice on graduate school and resources, the latter will also introduce students to the MIT libraries, MIT Medical, and health insurance, Waldman said.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Kendra L. Pugh '09 (left) and REX coordinator Sarah C. Hopp '08 of East Campus attack deep in West Campus territory during Sunday's East vs. West Water War on Kresge Oval.



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Analyses of major causes of mortality in the US since 1900: cancers, diabetes, vascular and infectious diseases. Analytical models to derive estimates for historically variant population risk factors and physiological rate parameters. Analysis of familial and community data to separately estimate inherited and environmental risks. Basic population genetics and technology to discover genes carrying risk for common diseases. New this fall: consideration of role of novel nuclear forms in human and mouse embryos that appear to act as “stem” cells for fetal organogenesis and carcinogenesis. (Meets with graduate course, 20.215)

Where to Buy Food: Grocery Store Guide

By Ji Qi

When you first arrive at MIT, the dining options on campus and numerous restaurants located in Cambridge and Boston can make it easy to avoid the kitchens of your dorm or living group.

Sooner or later, though, budget constraints, the urge to finally consume something healthy, or the longing for a home-cooked meal may cause you to look for the nearest grocery store.

Here are a few places to start:

Star Market

20 Sidney Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-494-5250
Open daily, 7 a.m. to midnight
<http://www.shaws.com/>

Walk north on Mass. Ave. Take a left at the gas station, then a right on the next street. Star is on the left.

The closest market to MIT, Star is very similar to the traditional large grocery chains that you’re probably used to back home in terms of the brands and items they carry. Prices are probably higher than you’re used to, as is true for most Boston supermarkets. This may be the only supermarket you can reach during the cold winter months.

Trader Joe’s

748 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-491-8582
Open daily, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
<http://www.traderjoes.com/>

Walk west along Memorial Drive (along Dorm Row). Trader Joe’s is a 20-minute walk from MIT.

A supermarket full of unique and local specialty items, Trader Joe’s will provide more adventurous eaters with treats that will last a while without breaking the bank.

Although the selection is less comprehensive than Star’s, you’re sure to fall in love with the foods you can only find at Trader Joe’s. A few of my new staples include hummus, cappuccino meringues, pita chips, frozen mangos, and Chicken Gyoza “Potstickers.”

A second location is a short walk across the river in Boston at 899 Boylston Street across from the Hynes Convention Center.

Haymarket

Take the red line subway to Park Street, then take the green line to the Haymarket stop.

If you’re looking for fresh and cheap produce, look no further. Although Haymarket may be quite a hike from MIT, the deals you will score at this fantastic outdoor market are definitely worth it. You might find two boxes of strawberries or four pounds of tomatoes for only a dollar.

Aside from produce, vendors also sell meat, seafood, and a variety of specialty items. Haymarket is around every Friday and Saturday from dawn until items run out. If you stick around until late afternoon, you might just

catch the dollar-a-bag sales.

Be prepared for a loud and crowded experience, as vendors try to out-heckle each other as shoppers ease themselves through packed alleys. Quality can also be an issue, but you’ll still get the best deal in town. Be sure to bring bags or packs to carry everything back.

C Mart Supermarket

692 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
617-338-1717

Take the red line subway to Downtown Crossing, then take the orange line one stop to Chinatown.

Located in Chinatown, C Mart is the classic example of an Asian supermarket. Go here if you’re looking for traditional Asian sauces and specialty items.

Super 88

1095 Commonwealth Ave
Boston, MA 02215
617-787-2288
<http://www.super88market.com/>

Take the red line subway to the Park Street stop, then take the green line “B” branch (Boston College branch) to Packard’s Corner.

Super 88 is an Asian supermarket chain specializing in Asian produce and seafood.

Other options

If you prefer to have things delivered, you can try **Peapod by Stop & Shop** (<http://www.peapod.com/>) and arrange for delivery straight to your door.

Besides Trader Joe’s, the **Harvest Co-op** in Central Square (walk North on Mass. Ave. for about 10 minutes; Harvest is on the left at 581 Mass. Ave.) and **Whole Foods Market** (turn right two streets past Harvest on Prospect St. and walk three minutes to 115 Prospect St.) have organic foods or healthier alternatives.

If you’re looking for locally grown produce, Boston and Cambridge have a number of **farmers’ markets** to choose from. Most run until November and offer more than just produce (I’ve heard that the homemade cookies and pies are delicious).

The most convenient location for MIT students is the farmers’ market in Central Square, located in the parking lot at Bishop Allen Dr. and Norfolk St. behind the Harvest Co-op. The market is open on Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. until Nov. 20. Another close location is the Morse School Parking Lot, which is on the way to the Memorial Drive Trader Joe’s. This one runs on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. until Oct. 28. The Harvard Square farmer’s market is hosted by the Charles Hotel and runs Fridays and Saturdays through the end of November.

For more locations farmers’ market locations, visit http://www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/farmers_markets.htm.

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MIT Makes Magazine's Top 100 List of Gay-Friendly Campuses

By Sarah Schweitzer
THE BOSTON GLOBE

In an age when colleges live and die by their rankings, a new focus for campus assessment is emerging: gay-friendliness.

The *Advocate*, the national newsmagazine for gays and lesbians, published a 389-page book this month listing the 100 schools that it says offer the best discrimination protection, most friendly climate, and most extensive campus services for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered students. Sixteen of the schools are in New England, including six in Massachusetts.

MIT, for one, made the top 100. The school is cited for having one of the nation's oldest gay and lesbian student groups and for early on including both sexual orientation and gender identity in its nondiscrimination policy, yielding what the book, *The Advocate College Guide*, calls a high "gay point average."

"It is a welcoming place," said Natalija Jovanovic, a graduate engineering student at MIT and president of the Rainbow Coffee House, a gay, lesbian, transgendered, and bisexual social group. "Because it's so technically oriented, if you are good at what you do, nothing else matters. Transistors and chemical compounds don't care what you do with your free time."

The book arrives as surveys show that more gay and lesbian students are coming out at younger ages, often in high school, placing the climate of a college campus at the forefront of more students' minds as they select schools.

"A lot of high school kids have already dealt with the issue of coming out by the time they get to college," said Bruce Steele, the editor of the *Advocate*, whose sister company, Alyson Books, published the guide. Steele said the book's aim is to help those students and their parents make an informed college choice.

The book does not assign individual rankings, but identified a top 20, including Tufts University and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Since 1992, *The Princeton Review* has ranked the 20 schools that it considers the most and the least "gay community accepted." This year, the review ranked New York University as most gay friendly and Notre Dame as most inhospitable.

Steele points out that the *Review's* gay-friendly rankings are based on student opinion, while his guide is based on quantifiable data.

Harriet Brand, spokeswoman for the *Review*, said the survey of 115,000 students is more compelling because students offer a more accurate, ground-level gauge of a campus's climate.

For the *Advocate*, the rankings book is an entry point to a potentially lucrative niche market. The magazine is so eager to attach its name to reports about the guide that magazine officials insisted that Steele answer all questions about the book and refused to allow the author, Shane Windmeyer, to speak with a reporter.

The publishing house has no sales figures yet for the book, which had a first run of 5,000 copies and is expected to be placed in stores' college preparation sections, not their gay and lesbian sections.

Officials at schools that made the top 100 expressed gratitude in interviews for being included.

Bruce Reitman, dean of students at Tufts University said: "We know it's a friendly, open campus. ... It is a nice statement for the community."

Yet last week Tufts alerted the press when *Newsweek* had named it one of the "New Ivies" and did not publicly announce its ranking within the *Advocate's* top 20. Kim Thurler, the school spokeswoman, said that Tufts does not announce

its standings in every school ranking, adding that it did not publicize the US News & World Report or the Princeton Review rankings, for instance.

She said the *Advocate* ranking will be posted on the school's e-mail news service. "We certainly weren't keeping [the *Advocate* ranking] under a bushel," she said.

Gay and lesbian activists and student leaders said that the book is a welcome addition to the online rumor mill that has tended to inform high school students' decisions about gay-friendliness.

"I would have definitely liked having a book like this," said Abigail Francis, 29, project coordinator of MIT's Lesbian Bisexual Gay and Transgender (LBGT) Services, a position the university funded for the first time last year.

The rankings are calculated on a "gay point average," which looks at 20 factors, including whether a school offers a resource center for gay and lesbian students, a variety of gay studies courses, scholarships specifically for gay and lesbian students, gay and lesbian social events, and procedures for reporting gay and lesbian harassment.

The rankings, educators said, might not have been possible to calculate a decade ago, because fewer services for gay and lesbian students existed.

The AIDS crisis in the 1980s propelled the creation of more services, which then multiplied in the 1990s as more students came out at younger ages, said Dona Yarbrough, director of the LGBT Center at Tufts. But, she said that today less than 5 percent of colleges and universities have centers for gay and lesbian students.

The rankings of the top 100 schools were not all obvious choices, some educators said. Smith College, for example, is not on the list, nor is Harvard University.

Steele said he wasn't sure why Smith didn't make the list; Harvard did not because at the time the *Advocate* was surveying school officials, Harvard's antidiscrimination policy did not protect transgendered students, though that has since changed, he said.

Steele said he hopes to expand the list in coming years to include

more schools.

But for now, "what matters is that schools are now going to compete to see who is the most gay-friendly," he said. "They change because they have to keep up."



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QUO VADIS

Dean Larry G. Benedict Lists Current Projects, Goals

Benedict, from Page 1

offices that I'm responsible for, you can see the kinds of services available through those offices.

TT: I know that you offer office hours during the school year. When will those be?

LB: I myself have open office hours every Friday at 10 a.m. If you want to complain, if you need money, if you want to tell me what life is like, you just want to say hello, stop on by. And if you can't do that, you can always make an appointment with my assistant. My phone number is 3-4052. In addition, I check my e-mail every morning before 7:30 a.m. so I will get back to you within the day if I'm not off campus.

TT: What advice do you have for incoming freshmen based on your own college experiences and what you know of MIT?

LB: This is a very good question, and it's one that I get asked often. I don't want to sound paternalistic and I don't want to sound authoritarian, but my advice to freshmen is to make sure you live a balanced life, that you don't just spend 24 hours a day, seven days a week studying. Studying is why you're here, but you can't do it forever. You need to get some sleep. I think freshmen forget to sleep. And the less sleep you get, the less well your mind functions just physiologically speaking.

And related to sleep is that you need to remember to eat and eat more than just Ramen noodles and Mac & Cheese. That sounds silly, but if you talk to freshmen around the sixth to eighth week of school, and I talk to a lot of them, they forget to sleep, they forget to eat, they get sick. And as a result, their learning is negatively impacted.

The other thing that I encourage in terms of the balanced life: every freshmen who arrives here was involved in something in their secondary schools, some activity, sport, club, the student paper. It's important for you to get involved in something at MIT, even if it's only one thing. And I know that, especially the first semester, freshmen feel that they don't have the time. I've gotta study study study. In fact, those

students that are involved in something else end up developing better time management skills, which means that you can be more effective with the time you study.

So that is the advice that I give. I know it sounds terribly old fogie-ish, but it's important.

TT: What about incoming graduate students?

This is the first in a five-part series of interviews of administrators and student leaders at MIT.
Tomorrow, The Tech interviews Undergraduate Association President Andrew T. Lukmann '07.

LB: I have a different story for them, because by now they've learned to deal with these kinds of things. MIT has a wealth of things available. Boston and Cambridge have an enormous variety of opportunities and experiences. Take advantage of them. This is one of the few times in your life where you're going to get out and get involved. And, as you know, the number of student activities we have here is phenomenol, let alone the kinds of opportunities that exist in Boston and Cambridge. So, get out, experience our area, enjoy it. And we also have a lot of international students, and we want them especially to get to understand the variety of things that are available to them here.

TT: What do you think will be the major challenges the freshmen will face?

LB: The biggest challenge for freshmen that first semester is learning how to study, learning how to learn, and learning how to adjust to this incredibly exciting but competitive environment. Getting through the first 8.01 problem set and getting through the first 8.01 exam. It's very challenging. I think first semester can be very overwhelming, but all of our students learn how to deal with it by the end of the first semester. So I try to calm people

a little bit. Don't be overwhelmed. It will be tough; we know it's going to be tough, but that's why we're here.

TT: If there was one thing you think new students should in their first semester here, what would it be?

LB: The very first thing I would recommend is to get to know one of your faculty. Almost all faculty have open hours, and if they don't they'll meet with you on appointment basis. Almost all of our faculty really enjoy that. But I think as a freshman coming in, you think, oh my gosh, there's Mr. or Mrs. or Ms. big time Nobel-winning, prize-winning faculty member, I can't talk to that person, they don't want to talk to me. In fact, they do. I think one of the more enjoyable experiences those freshmen who do it have is meeting and talking with faculty.

The other thing is that this is a big place, and during the course of four years you're going to see a lot of people. You need to make contact with some of them and let them get to know you as a person, because down the road you're going to want recommendations. And if you start connecting with a faculty member early on, then you see that you're going to keep that connection for four years.

One of the challenges I give to freshmen is to come talk to me. I have open office hours. I have e-mail. I'd love to meet you.

TT: What were your first impressions of MIT? Have they changed at all?

LB: Before I got here, I had a stereotypical view of MIT. And that is that we have a bunch of drudge people here who never do anything but work and study and who don't have any fun, who don't have any life. Very shortly, within days of being here, I found out quite the opposite. We have a very diverse student body that is very actively involved, that is very heavily engaged in all kinds of activities, taking advantage of all the various things MIT has to offer. It is an incredibly dynamic place. As I talk to students one on one — they don't want to admit it in public, but behind closed doors they will tell you — most of the time most of them

Larry G. Benedict

Educational background:

B.A. in Modern European History at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; M.A. in Education and Curriculum Instruction at UMass at Amherst; and PhD in Educational Research and Evaluation at UMass at Amherst.

Previous occupation (most recent at top):

Dean for Student Life at Johns Hopkins; Vice President for Student Affairs at University of Southern Maine; Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at University of Massachusetts at Amherst; has been working in higher education for 32 years

Age: 61

Hometown: Boston, Mass. and Portsmouth, N.H.

How long at MIT: Beginning his seventh year

E-mail: larryben@mit.edu

Office: 4-110



are having a very good experience here. They are enjoying MIT. They're having all kinds of things they never dreamed would be possible for them.

It's a wonderful environment in that MIT gives its students more autonomy over more aspects of their education within the classroom and outside the classroom than any other school I know. I think that's wonderful. You're going to learn so much more here than at other schools because of that autonomy.

TT: Why did you want to be the dean for student life?

LB: MIT has a wonderful academic reputation, but at the time when I took the job, it didn't have such a wonderful reputation for the student life program. And one of the things that I want to be able to do is be part of an organization that was beginning to invest heavily in student life, to improve the quality of life outside the classroom, to provide more opportunities and support for students. It's a wonderful time to be here. We've built new buildings, we built the Z Center and residence halls. We've got new staff and new moneys for student life programs. It's been a great time, a lot fun.

TT: Since you've been dean of student life at so many other colleges, what would you say is different about MIT?

LB: Our students really are very driven. In some ways, that's really good, and in some ways I feel sorry sometimes because students get so exhausted, so worn out, so frazzled.

Another thing is the MIT education. It's a very tough education, but when I talk to students they say, oh yeah it's killing me but I wouldn't have it any other way. Students say the one change they don't want is to dumb down the academic experience here. And I don't blame them. But with that comes the price of a lot of hard work.

TT: What are you currently spending your time working on in terms of student life activities?

LB: There are several big things this year. One is to continue our work on the new graduate residence hall NW35. We began that last year; we've got a full blown planning effort underway for that. The new graduate hall will open up near Sidney-Pacific and Albany Street. Related to that, we're going to begin the planning this fall for the transition for Ashdown into an undergraduate residence hall. That's going to take about 18 months to 2 years of planning and renovation. We'll be looking to put a committee together at the beginning of the semester.

We have a variety of dining pro-

grams and experiments we're working on this year. I want to see Pritchett Dining Hall that we renovated last year become an integral part of the east side of campus. We want to work with MacGregor, for example, to introduce a pilot dining program there. We're looking at experiments in the other residence halls that have residential dining. And then finally we are looking to graduate students to try to get them more involved with our dining programs on campus.

We're bringing in a new director for the office of student mediation and conduct, Veronica Mendoza ['96]. She was a student here, and she went to law school and has been out working in the legal profession. She's going to be joining us Sept. 1.

The staff and myself have been working very closely with the Dormcon's Judcomm to overhaul the Judcomm rules. We're going to be phasing those rules in this fall. The students have been working very hard on that for several years now. So, that's a major improvement. We're looking forward to that.

We've got a whole new effort called student leadership development efforts. You know, residence hall retreats, training workshops for various student leaders and things like that. We have a lot of initiatives we're planning to work on. The idea is to try to give students lots of opportunities during their careers here to try out different kinds of experiences where they play some kind of leadership role.

TT: What would you say are changes or differences in student life in colleges in general since you were a student?

LB: Students now are smarter. They work harder. They try to be more excellent at more things, especially at MIT. You want to do a thousand things and do them excellently, which is a great goal, but sometimes it is a struggle. Students struggle with more problems these days than we had when I was back in school, whether it is the pressure of having too many things to do or if it's the pressure of trying to get the ideal job or if it's the pressure of trying to take three majors, two minors and a specialty. We have students here like that. We're also dealing with things like eating disorders, that whether they existed at the time we don't know, ranging to things like downloading music, problems with the RIAA and MPAA.

The opportunities available today are phenomenol. When I was in school, nobody I knew studied abroad, nobody I knew traveled abroad, no undergraduate I knew had a research project with a professor. Those are critical pieces of people's education now. Lots of new opportunities, lots of new expectations, and lots of new challenges. It's a tough world. And it's a lot to try to balance.

TT: When you're not in your office, how do you spend your time?

LB: I like to go walking around Boston, I like to cook, and I like to read contemporary fiction. I don't have time for a lot of any of that, because when school starts I'm in the office a lot, including many evenings and many weekends. But those are the things I enjoy doing most. My wife and I used to go walk on the beach, walk in the woods of New Hampshire and Maine.



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from page 7

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5	2	8	6	4	7	3	1	9
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8	9	4	3	7	1	5	2	6
7	5	2	4	8	6	9	3	1
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6	8	7	9	5	2	1	4	3
2	3	9	8	1	4	6	5	7

Shuttle Schedules

Saferide: Cambridge West	Saferide: Cambridge East	Saferide: Boston West	Saferide: Boston East	Tech Shuttle	Northwest Shuttle
1. 84 Mass. Ave.	1. 77 Mass. Ave.	1. 84 Mass. Ave.	1. 84 Mass. Ave.	1. Kendall Square T	1. Kendall Square T
2. McCormick Hall	2. Edgerton	2. Mass. Ave. and Beacon	2. Mass. Ave. and Beacon	2. Amherst/Wadsworth	2. Amherst/Wadsworth
3. Burton Hall	3. NW30 (224 Albany)	3. 528 Beacon (TC)	3. 478 Commonwealth	3. Building 39	3. 77 Mass. Ave.
4. New House	4. NW86 (70 Pacific)	4. 487 Commonwealth (PSK)	4. Vanderbilt Hall (on request only)	4. 84 Mass. Ave.	4. NW10 (Edgerton)
5. Tang/Westgate	5. Random Hall	5. 64 Bay State (TXI)	5. 28 The Fenway (SN)	5. Burton House	5. NW30 (The Warehouse)
6. West Garage (on request only)	6. 790 Main (on request only)	6. 111 Bay State (SH)	6. Prudential Center	6. Audrey St.	6. NW86 (70 Pacific)
7. Simmons Hall	7. Plymouth/Webster	7. 155 Bay State	7. 229 Commonwealth Ave. (PKT)	7. Simmons Hall	7. Random Hall
8. WW15 (on request only)	8. 638 Cambridge St.	8. 58 Manchester (ZBT)	8. 253 Commonwealth Ave. (TEP)	8. Vassar/Mass. Ave.	8. Vassar/Mass. Ave.
9. 69 Chestnut (PIKA)	9. Sciarappa/Charles	9. 259 St. Paul (ET)	9. 32 Hereford St. (CP)	9. Stata	9. Stata
10. Chestnut/Magazine	10. 6th/Charles	10. 550 Memorial Dr. (Tang)	10. 450 Beacon St. (PLP)		10. Hotel@MIT (on request only)
11. Magazine/Erie	11. Tech Square	11. Simmons Hall	11. Beacon and Mass. Ave.		
12. 22 Magazine	12. Kendall “T” Stop	<div>Saferide: The MIT Saferide Boston and Cambridge vehicles will operate simultaneously seven days a week, every day of the year from 6 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. (3:30 a.m. Thursday through Saturday). Each route leaves its Mass. Ave. starting location every 30 minutes from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and five minutes after every half hour from 10 p.m. onwards from Sunday to Wednesday. From Thursday to Saturday, each route leaves its Mass. Ave. starting location every 30 minutes from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and five minutes after every half hour from 11 p.m. onwards.</div> <div>Tech Shuttle: The Tech Shuttle operates weekdays from 7:15 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. Tech Shuttle routes start at the Kendall Square T stop every 20 minutes with extra morning service (shuttles every 10 minutes that leave the Kendall Square T stop from 8:05 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.) from September through May.</div> <div>Northwest Shuttle: The Northwest Shuttle operates from 7:25 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. on weekdays. Routes start at the Kendall Square T stop every 20 minutes with extra morning service (shuttles every 10 minutes that leave the Kendall Square T stop from 7:25 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.) from September through May.</div> <div>SOURCE: Parking and Transportation Office, http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/shuttles/index.html</div>			
13. 129 Franklin	13. E40/Wadsworth				
14. Star Market	14. E23 Medical Ramp				
15. NW86 (70 Pacific)	15. East Campus				
16. NW30					
17. NW10 Edgerton					
18. Building N51					
19. Albany Garage/N10 Lot (on request only)					
20. Building 56/66					
21. Building 34					

Entire Class of '10 Placed in Top Three Dorm Choices

The Housing Lottery placed everyone in the Class of 2010 in their top three dormitory choices. 70 percent received their first choice, 23 percent received their second, and 7 percent received their third. These numbers are comparable to last year's, with 70 percent, 26 percent, and 4 percent of the Class of 2009 receiving their first, second, and third choice dormitories, respectively.

The Housing Office partners with Information Services & Technology on an algorithm that achieves the “highest rate of satisfaction” for freshmen, Robin Smedick, assistant director of undergraduate housing said. The goal is to place students in their top three choices, which has been done for the past two years.

Baker was the most popular choice, with 293 students selecting it as their first choice dorm. MacGregor House with 155 students, Burton-Conner with 130, and Simmons Hall with 113 followed for first-choice requests. MacGregor saw more requests this year than in previous years, Smedick said, as all of the slots in the dorm were filled with those who requested it as their first choice. Last year, only 57 percent of available spaces were filled with students requesting MacGregor first.

According to Smedick, the survey given to students after the lottery indicated that “size or style of room” was the most common contributing factor for those who chose MacGregor. It is likely that MacGregor was chosen because it is the most likely place to receive a single room, Smedick said.

The Adjustment Lottery opened Thursday, Aug. 24 at noon and will close on Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

—Angeline Wang



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daily confusion

Monday,
August 28, 2006

00:00
00:17—**Random Hall**—Roofdeck Movies: These are the pictures that move on the screen that hangs on the deck that stands on the roof that is on top of the dorm that J. Arthur built. They are fun. Come, watch them!
00:18—**Senior Haus**—Saturday Morning Cartoons. Come to our basement and chill out all night with a server full of 'toons and a fridge full of milk and cereal.

01:00
01:04—**EAsT campUS**—"The thermal energy spectrum is continuous, not quantized" "You sure about that?" "um.... something about 'Phonons'?" "Not even close"
01:17—**Random Hall**—Compressed Infrigidated Intermissions: Random Hall is cooler than the movie theatre- for one thing, the concessions are free. Also, frozen. Even if you aren't watching the movie, come, stop by for some Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream.

02:00
02:02—**Senior Haus**—Need to get rid of an unwanted corpse? Come see us immediately.
02:23—**Senior Haus**—Hentai is really amazing, no, seriously. I have pink dreadlocks and I used to be a lesbian. Come watch it with me. Room 452.

03:00
03:00—**Simmons Hall**—A day of goofing around and partying topped off with a late night jaunt with Jack could make anybody hungry, and we have what you need. Waffles, ice cream, waffles with ice cream on them, inside a waffle shaped building
03:17—**Random Hall**—Random House of Pancakes: Tired of looking for Baker House? Random Hall is located at 42deg 21.401min N, 71deg 06.298min W. It is easy to find, so drop on by for an early (or late) breakfast.

04:00
04:11—**Senior Haus**—Come to Senior Haus and have sex with one (or both!) of our lovely rush chairs. condoms and dental dams provided by MIT Medical.
04:17—**Random Hall**—Talk to Megahal: Megahal rules Azerbaijan. Megahal rules Arizona. Megahal is glupp. Megahal is Random Hall's sentient computer- full of arcane knowledge and miraculous insight. It makes more sense now than many of your professors ever will.
04:33—**EAsT campUS**—u r lyk teh kulest. Fuckin' Millenials.

07:00
07:09—**Senior Haus**—So you're a virgin frosh. And lack of play makes you obnoxious. Which ensures you never get play. Which makes you more obnoxious, etc. Starting to understand?

08:00
08:00—**Burton-Conner**—Breakfast: Not as good as the Housemaster's Brunch. But still free!
08:59—**Senior Haus**—Seven Deadly Sins: Sloth. Advanced

Standing Exams? Yeah, right. Stupid frosh.

09:00
09:00—**French House**—Scones frais à la Maison Française! Care for warm, fresh scones to start your day? Come over to French House and join us for scones (and tea, if you like) and discover that it is in fact possible to enjoy les matins.

10:00
10:17—**Random Hall**—Things that shouldn't be eaten for breakfast: "Indigestion's what you get from the enemies you 'et". Come to Random Hall and consume other things that aren't meant to be eaten for breakfast- but are considered edible anyway.
10:30—**German House**—German House Trip to Walden Pond: Want to see some more of Massachusetts and enjoy a relaxing picnic in a famous park with some cool people? Meet at 10:30 a.m. and we'll head to the T as a group. Bring \$12 fare for the commuter rail.

11:00
11:00—**Senior Haus**—It's Log, it's Log, it's big, it's heavy, it's wood! Don't you love that episode of Ren & Stimpy? Or wait--- shit! you're probably too fucking young, that aired in 1991! goddamned freshman.
11:59—**EAsT campUS**—Why you all up in my grill? This ain't no bbq. Oh wait. It is.

12:00
12:00—**Simmons Hall**—PAINT-BALLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL. meet at simmons for an afternoon of fun.
12:17—**Random Hall**—Games in the Main Lounge: Death, destruction and despair, people dying everywhere. Come, play the Largest Game of Munchkin Ever (all the expansions, combined) or other equally ridiculous board games in the Random Hall Main Lounge- all day.

13:00
13:00—**Baker House**—Come to Baker for pizza and ice cream sundaes to fill you up and cool you down.
13:00—**MacGregor**—Recess! -- You graduated from high school, you've gotten into MIT, but let's face it - it's not as good as elementary school. You've got a week until classes start - play tag and four square, drink some koolaid, and eat animal crackers while you still can!
13:00—**New House**—Scavenger Hunt: Discover New House the best way possible to...hunt through it and gather the clues... we'll dish out the prizes!!!
13:01—**Senior Haus**—Your parents are gone, right? [If not, why not?!] Our small army of talented hairdressers will dye your hair any color you please. One of us! One of us!
13:02—**Senior Haus**—Oh, yeah, and to complete your transformation into a scruffy college student, we'll help you dye/print your very own T-shirt. Oh joy!
13:09—**EAsT campUS**—V is for Victory. Dye your hair.
13:17—**Random Hall**—Cookies and Smut (with Viking Bingo!): Apparently there is a market for erotic viking fiction. Come, listen to dramatic retellings of what is certainly some of the worst

material ever written (aside, of course, from internet fanfiction.)

14:00
14:00—**EAsT campUS**—Way way back in the 1980's secret government employees dug up famous guys and ladies and made amusing genetic copies Now the clones are sexy teens Now they're gonna make it if they tried Loving learning sharing judging Time to laugh and shiver and cry. Clone High (Marathon)
14:00—**Senior Haus**—Seven Deadly Sins: Haus Pride: Those sneaky EAsT campUS bastards are going to start pelting us with water balloons. Help us man our funnelators and repel their attack! [Don't know what a funnelator is? Come find out!]
14:00—**Spanish House**—Spanish House Sports: If by soccer you mean futbol come join us for a game out on the field.
14:17—**Random Hall**—Come tour Random Hall, home of bubbles and doom!
14:37—**EAsT campUS**—Your orientation shirts are a little dull. Spice them up with a little bit of voticular madness with the EC human spin-easel.

15:00
15:00—**Senior Haus**—How will you survive the zombie apocalypse? Join the DOOMCom Zombie Defense Initiative as we show you how to make boffers [padded swords] so that your final [and fatal] battle will be a thing of glory.
15:00—**Burton-Conner**—BBQ: fire + burgers = BBQ. Or ambulance ride. You choose.
15:17—**Random Hall**—Games in the Main Lounge: May your deeds with sword and axe equal those with sheep, grain, brick, wood...Settlers of Catan and other (more) exciting games in the Random Hall main lounge- all day today. Come, play them!
15:18—**EAsT campUS**—Pick a tour guide to lead you on a magical mystery tour full of pretty kitties, vibrant murals, flashing lights, and marvels of engineering incorporated into everyday life. OK, maybe marvels is a stretch. Don't pet the roaches. We call the big one Willie.

16:00
16:00—**Bexxxley**—who is she?
16:00—**French House**—Cuisine is an integral part of la Maison Française, and we'd love to show you what it's all about. Cuisinez with us from 4:00-6:15, or just enjoy the spoils at 6:15. We're happy to teach, so come even if you're lacking a certain je ne sais quoi when it comes to cooking.
16:01—**Bexxxley**—WHO is she?
16:02—**Bexxxley**—who is SHE?
16:03—**Bexxxley**—WHO IS SHE?
16:04—**Bexxxley**—what is she?
16:05—**Bexxxley**—there's no baby about it.
16:17—**Random Hall**—Random Lasagna: Despite repeated attempts at selective breeding and genetic modification, we have failed to create carnivorous lasagna. Worse, the USCSB is on our case about it. Come to Random Hall and help us destroy the evidence!
16:47—**Random Hall**—Chinese

Roulette: Has 3 days worth of free food made you bored with dinner? Spice up your evening meal with an element of risk - The Chinese Roulette! Come test your luck at our Spinning Table of Doom!

17:00
17:00—**Senior Haus**—Abominations Party! Come to Senior House 4th Ware and eat pickle and peanut butter sandwiches, oreo and tuna fish sandwiches, and other foods that aren't supposed to taste good, but inexplicably do.
17:03—**Senior Haus**—Tea party! Appropriate attire encouraged. Alice did not quite know what to say to this: so she helped herself to some tea and bread-and-butter, and then turned to the Dormouse, and repeated her question. 'Why did they live at the bottom of a well?'
17:14—**EAsT campUS**—Come celebrate man's exalted position at the top of the food chain, reigning supreme over both flora and fauna.
17:17—**Random Hall**—17

18:00
18:56—**EAsT campUS**—What's the November rule? Go ask the hottest EC resident you can find.

19:00
19:00—**Spanish House**—Spanish House TV Time: Check out our TV lounge, and enjoy some movies, that are showing on TV.
19:17—**Random Hall**—Global Thermonuclear War: The impending apocalypse is a threat that we all have to live with, and Random Hall is the reason. Stave off your demise with blinky lights, liquid nitrogen ice cream, and other doomsday devices.

21:00
21:00—**Baker House**—Like bouncy castles? How about henna tattoos? DDR? Bobbing for apples? These things and much more will be available at Baker's installment of the Amherst Alley Affair. Stop by and check it out.
21:00—**MacGregor**—Salsa lessons. You want to be able to proficiently shake those hips at our Salsa party, right?
21:00—**Next House**—Are you a poker player? Do you enjoy tormenting Egyptian rats? Is Set more your style? Whatever your card game, Next House can deliver! We've got everything from Texas Hold'Em to Mao! Come for the cards, stay for the free food!
21:00—**Senior Haus**—15 Minute Dance Party: 15 minutes: 15,000 pixie sticks: 15 x 10^6 sexy coeds. What more do you need? Come to the 4th HNC and get your groove on, yeah!
21:00—**McCormick**—Come get a refreshing smoothie from friendly McCormick residents before you head down Amherst Alley to check out the Amherst Alley Affair!
21:00—**Burton-Conner**—Jello- it wiggles, it jiggles... especially when you're wrestling in it.
21:00—**New House**—We're nearly all the way down Amherst Alley, yet we're still rocking out at this Affair. Come enjoy our awesome DJ and our food.
21:15—**MacGregor**—Salsa Lessons! No experience neces-

sary, limited time offer! Void where prohibited. Batteries not included.

21:20—**Burton-Conner**—We hired a band for the Amherst Alley Affair. They're in the Porter Room. Why aren't you?
21:24—**Senior Haus**—Ich bin der große Verräter. Es darf keinen größeren geben. Ich bin der Zorn Gottes. Die Erde, über die ich gehe, sieht mich und bebt. Ich bin der Zorn Gottes. Wer sonst ist mit mir?
21:30—**Baker House**—Bounce! Bounce! Bounce!
21:30—**Burton-Conner**—J-E-L-L-O!
21:30—**Burton-Conner**—W-R-E-S-T-L-I-N-G!
21:30—**Burton-Conner**—Spelling is great! G-R-A-T-E!

22:00
22:00—**Bexxxley**—the same shitty jokes at the same shitty party every single night.
22:00—**Senior Haus**—You've trained. You've sworn to rid the world of the undead. ARE YOU READY? Come to DOOMCom and try your skills against our zombstacle course. Bring your boffer and your chainmail, and fight the undead hordes.
22:00—**McCormick**—We've still got smoothies! Come grab one and head down to Baker, Burton-Conner, MacGregor, and New to check out what's going on there!
22:00—**Baker House**—We've got Plinko, too! Come on down, the price is right! Don't forget to get your cats spaid or neutered.
22:00—**Burton-Conner**—chocolate+grahamcrackers+marshmallows+fire=tasty
22:00—**MacGregor**—Party time! Come Salsa with us, while enjoying chips, salsa (what else?) and guacamole.
22:15—**Baker House**—We're still bouncing at Baker! Come hop on!
22:45—**Senior Haus**—Orgy in the basement. Condoms provided. Oh, right, I forgot to mention: this a mandatory event to go to- Bizzie really needs some action.

23:00
23:00—**French House**—If you give a freshman a cookie... Cookies and hot chocolate à la Maison Française! Come enjoy homemade goodness — it should be vraiment fantastique. We welcome francophones, francophiles and non-French-speakers alike, so you really have no excuse. Qu'ils mangent des biscuits!
23:00—**MacGregor**—We're still shakin' our hips here at MacGregor.
23:00—**New House**—DJ Smark is providing an awesome soundtrack for New House's part of the Amherst Alley Affair. Don't miss it!
23:14—**Senior Haus**—WARNING. Overexposure to black lights might cause lung cancer. At least that's what the smokers tell us.
23:30—**Burton-Conner**—We're rocking out.
23:34—**Senior Haus**—Seven Deadly Sins: Greed: Learn how to commit tax fraud with our resident expert, Bruno.
23:45—**McCormick**—Get a smoothie and hurry down Amherst Alley while the party's still going on, and feel free to chat with the residents of McCormick!
23:50—**Baker House**—When was the last time you had carnie food? If you've already stopped by Baker's part of the Amherst Alley Affair, your answer would be TODAY! There's still time to grab some!

SPORTS

Men's Cross Country Hoping for Ninth NEWMAC Title

By Travis Johnson
SPORTS EDITOR

A saying in the running world goes “Cross Country: Our sport is your sport’s punishment”. Some may consider running 70 to 80 miles a week punishment befitting a serious felony, but the Men’s Cross Country team considers it fall practice.

All those miles are part of a winning tradition that Coach Halston Taylor has built in his 24 years as coach. One example of the team’s success is that since it joined the NEWMAC in 1998, it has won every conference meet. Last year was no exception, and the Engineers tallied a score of 25 at the conference meet by placing all seven of their top runners within the top 13.

Last season’s second place finisher, Coast Guard, had a lot of success in the distance running track events last spring and, according to Taylor, may be favored to win this year.

“Coast Guard is often a better team than we are but we tend to run

a better race when up against them,” said Taylor.

Before the conference title meet on October 28, MIT will compete six times, including at the Engineer’s cup in Franklin Park by the Forest Hills subway station.

Part of the reason MIT has been so successful in big races is Taylor’s strategy and his runners’ ability to execute. Halston sets time goals for each of his runners in the form of absolute times mile-by-mile and how far they should be behind MIT’s fastest runner.

More important than the quantitative goals are ways of “turning negative thoughts into positive thoughts and planning for distractions,” says Taylor. The ability of the mind to keep getting more out of the body is the focus of this Zen-like approach.

Besides hoping to beat Coast Guard to capture their ninth consecutive NEWMAC title, Men’s Cross Country aspires to advance to the National Tournament, which would

Men's Cross Country Quick Facts


Home Venue: Franklin Park
Conference: NEWMAC
Last Season's finish: 1st in conference, 6th at regional meet
Key Runners: Kevin F. Brulois '07, Jacob J. Ruzevick '09.

Schedule:

Saturday, Sept. 2, 5 p.m.	Alumni Meet	Boston, Mass. (Franklin Park)
Saturday, Sept. 9, 1:30 p.m.	Engineers Cup	Boston, Mass. (Franklin Park)
Saturday, Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m.	University of Southern Maine Invitational	Gorham, Maine
Friday, Sept. 22, 5:15 p.m.	National Preview	Wilmington, Ohio
Saturday, Sept. 30, 1:00 p.m.	Mount Holyoke College Invitational	South Hadley, Mass.
Saturday, Oct. 7, time TBA	NEICAAA Championship	location TBA
Saturday, Oct. 28, noon	NEWMAC Championship	South Hadley, Mass.
Saturday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m.	NCAA Regional Championship	Springfield, Mass.
Saturday, Nov. 18, 11 a.m.	NCAA Championship	Wilmington, Ohio

require placing second in an extremely tough regional tournament or running well enough all season long to get an at-large bid.

The team has made nationals seven times in Taylor’s twenty-four year tenure, and he says “we have an outside chance [of making nationals this season] if we stay healthy and the team members do not doubt themselves when the time comes.”



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